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CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPORT TO 10TH SED CONGRESS

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[Report of the SED Central Committee delivered by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee, to the opening session of the 10th SED Congress at the Palace of the Republic in East Berlin]

[Text] Dear comrades: The 10th SED Congress is an event of great historical importance in our people's lives. One can say with satisfaction that our party has done great work during the past 5 years in implementing the decisions of the ninth congress. In this, it found the active support of the workers class, the cooperative peasants, the members of the intelligentsia and all working people. Yes, we can say: Everything we have accomplished in the period under review is the work of millions of working people, the result of the firm, unshakable trust between party and people. (strong applause)

The GDR, the first socialist worker-peasant state on German soil, has proved its political stability despite furious attacks by the enemy, increased its economic capacity and proved itself as a cornerstone of peace in Europe. We may note with pleasure that in the second half of the 1970's, too, it was possible to preserve peace in Europe. To this, the GDR has made an active contribution alongside the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries. Thus the years since the ninth party congress have become another period of peaceful, intensive and creative work for the benefit of the people.

While in the world of capitalism recently one crisis followed another, in our country the upsurge has continued in all fields of social life. Once again, the unity of economic and social policy has stood its test. The material and cultural living standard of the working people has substantially increased. Outstanding feats have been accomplished in socialist competition in honor of the 10th party congress.

The experiences of the past years have deepened the conviction among the masses that the fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community is the solid foundation for peace, for further shaping the socialist society in the GDR. (strong applause) We will always continue to constantly strengthen and consolidate this alliance. The supreme law of our activity is and will remain proletarian internationalism, the international solidarity with all peoples struggling for their freedom. All peoples fighting for national and social liberation, for independence, democracy and progress can continue to count on the GDR's solidarity. (prolonged applause)

If we review the period since the ninth party congress, we can rightly say that ours is a successful balance sheet. Our people's great efforts have borne good fruit. The trials of life, which truly have not always been easy, have been passed with honor by our party. In the difficult class confrontation with imperialism our socialist GDR has always lived up to its national and international responsibility. By our domestic and foreign policy we have created favorable starting positions for mastering the tasks of the 1980's. We can declare with full justification from the rostrum of our 10th party congress: Together with the GDR working people, our party will also fulfill the tasks of the 1980's with honor. (prolonged, strong applause)

Our 10th party congress was prepared through the thoughts and deeds of the entire people. That is splendid evidence of how much the working people have made the flowering of our socialist society, its secure and prosperous future, their own cause. The great strength of socialist competition, the militant spirit inherent in it, is evinced by the fact that the workers collectives in industry have achieved a 3 and 1/2-day lead in plan fulfillment in honor of our party congress. (strong applause) Our cooperative peasants have reaped a good harvest in 1980 and overfulfilled the plan in meat, milk, butter, and eggs. This cannot be valued highly enough. (strong applause)

It is our wish at the 10th party congress to thank from the bottom of our hearts the workers class, the cooperative peasants, the intelligentsia, all citizens of our country, women and men, young and old, who in the truest sense of the word gave their best for the further strengthening of our socialist GDR. (prolonged, strong applause) [paragraph continues]

We also thank the members and candidate members of the SED, our militant alliance of like-minded people, who with untiring energy, initiative and steadfastness have added to our combat banner new victories in the struggle for peace and socialism, in the spirit of Ernst Thaelmann and Wilhelm Pieck. (prolonged, strong applause)

We can state that, as a result of our party's policy, the workers awareness, their conviction of the force and strength of socialism and of anti-imperialist solidarity have been further consolidated. The working people's readiness to strengthen the achievements of sociaism in the GDR through their political faith and their working feats, and to defend them against all hostile attacks, has grown. The openmindedness of the members of our party for the frank, candid presentation of the tasks that we still have to solve in further shaping the socialist society is evidence of their deep understanding for our party's policy and their high consciousness of their responsibility.

The members' meetings, the delegates conferences of our party, which developed into forums for a comprehensive exchange of views on further implementing our party program, were a high point in preparing for the 10th party congress. They were working consultations characterized by realistic assessments, a wealth of knowledge and closeness to the masses. They invigorated the party's fighting strength, evoked a broad response among the public and mobilized fresh initiatives. Thus, our party is well prepared to take in hand the implementation of the decisions that we will have to adopt, after thorough discussion, at our 10th party congress.

Dear comrades, our 10th congress has met at a memorable date. It was 35 years ago, on 21 April 1946, that the unification party congress was held in Berlin were the KPD and SPD united in the SED. That was an event of great consequence. Accompanied by the stormy applause of the delegates, Wilhelm Pieck and Otto Grotewohl by their symbolic handshake sealed the overcoming of the split of the German workers class and the establishment of its unity on a revolutionary basis. (strong applause) That corresponded with the lessons of the history of the German workers class and its long, sacrificial struggle, with the legacy of the greatest sons of the German people, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Since then, it has also been confirmed again and again on German soil that the workers clas can fulfill its historic mission only if it is led by a compact Marxist-Leninist party that has clear goals and is closely linked with the masses. With the founding of the SED, a fundamental change in the German people's history was initiated. The development and growth of our worker-peasant state during more than three decades is inseparably linked with the accomplishments of the SED. As today's reality shows, it has always lived up to its leading role. Based on the generally valid natural laws of the socialist revolution and of building socialism, it unites all forces of society on the road of socialism. It takes the lead in resolving the tasks of the present and future.

Comrades, we have entered the 1980's. They will set for our party new, greater tasks both from a national and an international viewpoint. We are ready to accept the challenges of this decade. Equipped with new experiences and knowledge, we will continue to successfully shape the developed socialist society, thus creating fundamental prerequisites for the gradual transition to communism. The main task here is to raise the people's material and cultural living standard on the basis of a high development rate of socialist production, increased effectiveness, scientific-technical progress and higher labor productivity.

The securing of what has been achieved in the material and cultural field, as well as its expansion, require an unparalleled increase in our national economic capacity. Our working people's creative activity, their skilled work and their initiative are just as much in demand here as an important upsurge in science and technology, whose achievements must increasingly permeate the entire economy of our country, and place it on a new basis. In full responsibility to our people we can state before the 10th party congress forum that, owing to its close cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other CEMA member countries, the GDR is in a position to continue to guarantee its stable and dynamic development as a strong constituent part of the community of socialist states. (prolonged, strong applause)

What has determined our party's course during several 5-year plans, and has become an experience of the people, will also stand its test in the future. The unity of economic and social policy is a powerful motor of social development. It promotes the working people's zest for achievement because it makes everyone realize that his industriousness is worthwhile for society, as well as for every individual. Only work will produce social wealth. He who contributes the most to it will also derive the greatest benefit from it. This socialist principle is an incentive to the creative competitive spirit, which will also permit us in the coming 5 years to fulfill the tasks contained in the 5-year plan draft directives of the 10th party congress on the development of the GDR national economy from 1981 to 1985.

If we take a look at what has been achieved in the GDR over more than three decades and particularly during the 1970's then we have every reason to look to the future with confidence. Our people have proved their strength. Under the leadership of the SED the workers class and its allies have worked revolutionary changes of historic consequence. Thus it has also been proved on German soil that socialism is the only social system that brings about the well-being, freedom and dignity of man. (prolonged, strong applause)

Dear comrades, a few weeks ago the 26th CPSU Congress took place in Moscow. We may say with full justification that the party congress of Lenin's party was an event of enormous significance for the Soviet people's further advance toward communism, for the socialist community and for the entire international development. Again the historic world role of the CPSU and the USSR in the struggle for peace and socialism was convincingly demonstrated to everyone. The decisions of the 26th party congress combine two basic tasks: To build the communist society and to safeguard peace. That is a truly Leninist program, consistently aimed at man's well-being and at the interests of the peoples' progress.

On behalf of the communists and all GDR working people, I voiced in my greetings address our high esteem for the accountability report of the Central Committee, delivered by the Central Committee general secretary, our friend and Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, and I paid tribute to the admirable achievements of the Soviet Union since the 25th party congress. (prolonged, stormy applause) Through its participation our delegation was able to directly experience how businesslike, in what militant spirit the 26th party congress tackled the task of setting the future targets. Thoroughly and specifically it discussed ways to solve the new tasks that have come up and the high requirements of the 1980's. Here it became evident that the Soviet country possesses every material and intellectual potential necessary to successfully implement the domestic and foreign policy adopted by the party congress, to further strengthen the cause of socialism and of peace, and to foil the aggressive plans of imperialism. (strong applause)

The 26th CPSU Congress has continued, and brought up to date, the peace program of the 24th and 25th party congress through new, comprehensive peace initiatives. They offer at the same time excellent opportunities to the peace forces to intensify their offensive. The peace program presented by Leonid Brezhnev shows the world how the imperialist confrontation course can be rebuffed, the danger of a nuclear war banished and detente furthered again. The international response to date indicates that the imperialist circles cannot ignore these proposals. Implementation of this program would lead to significant progress in the struggle to safeguard world peace.

I. The International Situation and the SED's Foreign Political Activity

1. The Basic Trends of International Development. The Balance of Forces in the World

Dear comrades, today processes of far-reaching revolutionary changes and tough conflicts over vital questions of mankind are taking place all over the globe. The struggle for socialism and peace, for the national and social liberation of the peoples, for their independence and against inperialism has reached a new stage. More than ever the focal point of this tremendous struggle is safeguarding peace, which, in the final analysis, will be the decisive factor for mankind's present and future.

It is becoming increasingly clear that progress and peace are inseparable. The strengthening of the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community and the further shift of the balance of power in the world in favor of socialism substantially influence the basic trends of international development. Here the growing unity of the revolutionary mainstreams of our time--of the socialist world system, the workers movement in the capitalist countries, and the national liberation movement--is of the greatest importance. Particularly in the 1970's it was possible, on the basis of all that, to achieve successes of historical consequence at the most varied sectors of the struggle for the renewal of the world, for a peaceful life for the peoples.

Through the loss of further areas of domination and spheres of influence, imperialism had to suffer severe defeats, be it in Africa, in the Middle East, or in Latin America. At the same time it made quite a few adventurist attempts to recapture these positions and to gain new ones. With its aggressiveness, its unpredictability and its striving for hegemony, based on a still substantial potential, imperialism is and remains a danger and a threat to the peoples.

That was also shown by the statement made recently by a prominent source in the Western Hemisphere, that there are "more important things than living in peace." This cynical statement befits the people who profit from intensified armament and who--as Hindenburg once did--hope that war will be as good for them as taking a cure at a spa. For the peoples, however, peace is the most important thing.

Thus there are opposing tendencies in international development. They are evident in the struggle of the forces advocating strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, continuing detente, defending the sovereign rights and freedoms of the peoples, as well as for those forces that undermine detente, accelerate the arms race, and pursue the policy of threats, boycott, interference in other states' internal affairs, and of oppression of the national and social liberation struggle of the peoples. The determining factor continues to be the positive basic trend which was implemented primarily owing to the strength of the Soviet Union and our socialist community, owing to their untiring endeavors. One of the most important results that bears witness to this is the fact that it has been possible to break the disastrous war-peace-war cycle. It must not be set in motion again.

It was fully in this spirit that the Central Committee constantly worked at implementing the foreign policy tasks adopted by the ninth party congress. The main thing for us was to deepen the alliance with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries, and to actively contribute to consolidating the unity and cohesion of our community. In accordance with the coordinated foreign policy of our alliance, we took measures and initiatives which primarily serve to halt the arms race and to promote arms limitation and disarmament--in short, to complement political detente by military detente.

It was in keeping with the highest priority task of the ninth party congress in the foreign policy field, [that we should] alongside the Soviet Union and our other allies in the Warsaw Pact, actively and constructively contribute to safeguarding peace and create the most favorable external conditions for building socialism and communism in our countries. As is shown by the results, the fulfillment of this task has been tackled with success. But, naturally, we do not overlook the fact that for a long time to come long, hard struggles and intensified efforts of all peace-loving forces will still be required before peace will be permanently stabilized. Setbacks in this struggle between peace and war did occur and will occur again. But that cannot and must not discourage us. For us communists there is no nobler aim than to work with all our energy and passion for peace in the interest of the peoples. (prolonged, strong applause)

Our consistent course to implement the principles of peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems has proved to be successful. We will continue to be guided by it. By implementing it, we are helping to achieve progress in international relations, to improve the world situation and at the same time to curb the scope of those who prefer confrontation to detente and cooperation. [paragraph continues]

The policy of peaceful coexistence is the only feasible way in which the danger of a new world war can be banished and peace can be lastingly safeguarded. There is no acceptable alternative to that policy. So that the peoples can be spared the consequences of a nuclear inferno, the good sense of that policy, to which realistic statesmen in the West also cannot close their eyes, must prevail as a motive for practical action.

2. The Crisis of the Capitalist System and its Inability To Solve the Pressing Problems of Mankind

Comrades, over the past years our party has attentively followed the processes taking place in the capitalist part of the world. These processes developed differently than many bourgeois ideologists had imagined at the start of the 1970's. As you know, they very euphorically welcomed the 1970's. They hoped that imperialism would succeed in strengthening its position in the world and in achieving internal stability. However, that has not come true. Instead, imperialism stumbled from crisis to crisis, and today even leading circles of the United States and other capitalist countries say that the deepest crisis in 50 years--namely, since the 1930's--has occurred.

At our ninth party congress we subjected the special interlocking of general and cyclical crises to a thorough analysis. Such processes have most profoundly shaken the capitalist system, and have initiated a new chapter of the general crisis of capitalism. This is evidenced by dwindling growth rates of production accompanied by rising inflation, and constantly high and further rising unemployment accompanied by stagnant or declining real wages. Chronical processes of crisis in many fields have acquired the character of international structural crises. Balance of trade and payments deficits are mounting, and state indebtedness is increasing. The rivalry among imperialist powers and centers is exacerbating, combined with constant struggles over positions in foreign markets, energy and raw material resources, currency relations, capital exports and modern technologies. The relations among the imperialist powers in the field of trade and payments are deteriorating. That naturally affects the relations among the capitalist states, the relations between capitalist and socialist states, and the relations between capitalist states and third world countries.

The characteristics of a new chapter of capitalist economic and social development in the 1980's, which result from economic development, thus require a thorough analysis. Politically, this new chapter is reflected in deep shocks to the social system both in the main countries of capitalism and at its periphery. Political instability manifests itself in the erosion, in many forms, of bourgeois democracy and in a growing rightist trend in politics, as well as in nearly 80 government resignations in the past decade. Almost all NATO countries were affected by it.

The analysis of the situation of imperialism leads to the socioeconomic roots and motivations of the confrontation policy pursued by powerful circles of monopoly capital. This policy is aimed at halting and reversing the trend toward weakening the internal and external positions of imperialism, which goes hand in hand with the worsening of the general crisis.

It is becoming more and more clearly evident that imperialism, with its crises, aggressiveness, its profit-oriented policy is threatening peace and progress of mankind. This is happening at the same time that world socialism, centered in the USSR, and national liberation movements are gaining strength.

However, this does not permit us to overlook the dangers emanating from the imperialist world and to assign the crimes of imperialism to oblivion. Since the beginning of this century, 64 years have been filled with global and regional wars, acts of aggression and intervention, in which imperialism was involved and which have cost the lives of over 80 million people. The United States alone, either directly or indirectly, resorted to force more than 220 times, or threatened with military interference.

Greed for profit, not love for mankind, is the vital element of imperialist thought and behavior patterns. Basically, such greed for profits is the root of imperialism's internally and externally aggressive behavior. [paragraph continues]

It is no accident that the striving for military superiority is most closely linked with the economic interests of the multinational companies, which by dealing in weapons of destruction are making two or three times the average profits that the entire industry makes since 1960, the arms expenditures of NATO have more than trebled. In the past 10 years alone, military expenditures were over $1.5 trillion. In the United States, they will come to the gigantic amount of $1.3 to $1.5 trillion in the 1980-1986 period. Imperialism's interests in intensified armament and the aggressiveness connected with it constitute a tremendous danger to the future of mankind.

Today, one of the most important tasks is to exhaust the enormous possibilities which science and technology offer in order to contribute everywhere to better satisfying the necessities of life and decreasing the severe social and material problems in many countries of the world. Yet imperialism promotes the development of science and technology in a different direction--for armament, for the implementation of its claim to spheres of interest and for the struggle with socialism.

Comrades, only about 5 years have passed since the deepest cyclical crisis of the capitalist world economy in the postwar period, which wasted large production capacities and manpower. And once again capitalism is back in another crisis. As early as 1980 industrial production dropped in the 24 developed capitalist countries which are members of the OECD, and 1981 production will decline still further, according to their own forecasts.

The inhumane mass unemployment is closely tied to this. At the end of 1980, in the capitalist industrialized countries 24 million working people were without work, according to official statistics. At the beginning of the new crisis, unemployment is higher than during the worst period of the last crisis. The EEC unemployment rate has reached 7.4 percent. The EEC alone had 8.5 million unemployed at the beginning of the year, including 1.3 million in the FRG, over 2.4 million in Great Britain, over 1.6 million in France and over 1.8 million in Italy. In the United States, more than 7.8 million are unemployed. This scourge of unemployment is hitting the young especially hard. Their share in the total number of those thrown into the street is between 25 and 60 percent.

In the next 18 months, the number of jobs in the OECD countries is not to be increased but decreased by a further 1 million. Growing job insecurity and accelerated rationalization are linked with an enormous intensification of exploiting and eroding social rights. In this way, a general attack is being launched on the social situation of the working people. In view of high inflation, the normal wage increases--fought for in hard battles--are less and less sufficient to balance the rising living costs. In most capitalist countries 1980 real wages have fallen to below the level of the previous year. The monpolies' profits, however, continue to rise. In 1979 the 500 biggest U.S. concerns alone increased their profits by 23 percent to the gigantic sum of $110 billion.

One urgent task of our time is to overcome the underdevelopment of large parts of the world population caused by colonialism. But as before, exploitation of the developing countries constitutes a main source from which the 11,000 international monopoly companies, with their 82,000 branches and subsidiaries, derive their profits. They have become a determining structural element of the capitalist world economy and permeate all parts of the imperialist system. Being powerful monopoly giants, they have formed a network of international exploitation which covers the workers class of the capitalist countries, the peoples of the developing countries, and even whole nations.

Just like a dam, imperialism opposes the democratic rights of peoples, human dignity and intellectual freedom. The armies of unemployed in the capitalist countries and hundreds of millions of unemployed in the developing countries which depend on the capitalist economic system testify to the fact that the right to work can never be implemented in a society dominated by monopolies. The basic right to political codetermination and to participation in shaping social policies, as well as the right to self-determination of the people in general, are disregarded and suppressed. All basic democratic rights are restricted and disregarded. Snooping, intimidation, repression and employment bans have taken on gigantic dimensions.

Open racial discrimination in many capitalist countries, direct and indirect support of the apartheid system in South Africa by all NATO countries, undoubtedly represent one of the biggest violations of human dignity. The enormously widened gap between rich and poor, the huge differences in life expectancy and individual prospects in life, crime and brutalization in society, the catastrophic extent of drug addiction, the mental crippling and moral disruption--all this characterizes a world without prospects, a world of brute force and the deep rottenness of the capitalist system.

Intellectual freedom is replaced by anticommunism, anti-Sovietism and nationalism, which to an extent previously unknown are today reviving the cold war in the ideological field. The new dimensions of the preparations for ideological war are aimed not only at the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community; they are not only to supply the "counter-armers" with reasons to justify their intensified arms buildup, but also serve to justify all the diseases and crimes, everything inhumane which imperialism is producing internally and externally today.

3. The GDR as a Firm Element of the Socialist Community

Comrades, all this increases our responsibility in building a new world. In the period under review it has been confirmed again and again that from our world of socialism, freedom, progress and human dignity, from its growth in strength, power and authority the decisive influence emanates for fundamental changes in human life, those changes which determine more and more the character of our epoch. In accordance with the objective laws of historic development, it has been proved in our world, the world of socialism, that the people are able to shape their existence for their own benefit without capitalists. Under the leadership of the workers class and its Marxist-Leninist party, and based on the socialist state power, they are successfully working to solve the vital questions to which capitalism cannot provide an answer.

In an unprecedented way, the great community of socialist countries has made it clear that social security prevails in socialism, and only in socialism. (prolonged, strong applause) The path to the highest level of education is open to all. The right to leisure and good health care is definitely guaranteed. Fear for one's existence and fear about the future no longer have any social basis. In real socialism the people determine their fate themselves. The citizens take an increasingly effective part in managing and planning social affairs. Above all, the youth have at their disposal all the opportunities for actively helping to shape the present, and they have definite prospects.

The socialist community, in which our GDR has a firm place, has achieved new progress of historical importance during the past decade. In developing the material-technological basis of socialism and communism, it has achieved the most important results to date. Economic development within CEMA was also characterized during these years by a higher growth rate of national income, labor productivity and industrial production than in the capitalist world.

In 1979, industry in the CEMA countries produced in 1 month as much as in all of 1950. From 1951 to 1979 the growth rate of industrial production of the CEMA countries was three times higher than that of the capitalist industrialized countries. In 1979, the CEMA member countries had approximately a 33 percent share of the world's machinery production, 26 percent of hard coal, 29 percent of steel, 19 percent of oil and 30 percent of natural gas. In energy production the share was 21 percent, and in mineral fertilizers 31 percent.

The 1970's were marked by further developing and making specific the strategy for shaping the developed socialist society and the transition to communism. This was reflected in the decisions of the fraternal parties, in such important documents as the new USSR Constitution and the party program adopted by our ninth party congress. Accordingly, essential qualititative transformations were effected or started in all spheres of the society. With all this, aims are being attained whose dimensions far exceed anything achieved to date.

We can state with deep satisfaction that the GDR's cooperation with the fraternal countries has made quick progress in all spheres of life during the period under review, and that it was enriched by valuable experiences. [paragraph continues]

The indestructible fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union, the firm rooting of our republic in the community of socialist states--we want to confirm that at our 10th party congress--is and will forever remain for our people the stable foundation of their security and successes in shaping the developed socialist society. (prolonged, strong applause)

As in past years, we will contribute in future toward further consolidating the unity and cohesion of our community of states. That is the guarantee for its successful advance, and also for the good development of every single one of its member countries. From this also originates its growing influence on world events and the effectiveness of our common activities in the international arena, especially for safeguarding peace.

It is precisely in that respect that the GDR has been able to make good use of the greater possibilities that have arisen from its worldwide recognition under international law. Today the GDR maintains diplomatic relations with 131 countries. It is member of the United Nations and its specialized organizations. In international life, it is occupying its respected place with equal rights.

Only the FRG believes that it can seriously harm these great achievements of our people by practices that are contrary to international law. However, as anyone can see, that does not speak aginst the GDR's policy borne by the cause of peace and understanding among peoples, but is only evidence of the FRG's broken relationship with international law. Especially at the present time when the foremost requirement of any policy is to safeguard peace, the peoples realize: It is fortunate for mankind that for the first time in history there is a socialist state on German soil--the GDR. (prolonged, stormy applause)

In the preceding years we further deepened, step by step, our fraternal relations in all areas, especially with the Soviet Union. This was done on the basis of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance of 7 October 1975, which has borne fruit. The joint efforts center on a still closer intertwining of the material and intellectual potentials of our two countries for coping with tasks reaching far into tomorrow. How firmly our community is rooted in life is shown by the fact that in this process, our peopes are constantly drawn closer together, that not only our relations at the various levels of the party and state in economy, science, culture and not least defense are marked by this process, but that it also establishes multifaceted personal relations in the people's everyday life.

The peoples of the Soviet Union and the GDR have indeed become allies, comrades in arms and friends. To this end, the CPSU and the SED have done tremendous political work. This fraternal alliance is a great revolutionary achievement, and it is forever indestructible. (prolonged, strong applause)

Our relations with the other socialist states have also substantially developed. This is evidenced by the multifaceted and intensive relations between the fraternal parties, governments and social forces of our countries, and the political and ideological, economic and scientific-cultural cooperation. Numerous agreements and accords have been concluded through which we have developed our collaboration with the Polish People's Republic, the CSSR, the Hungarian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Mongolian People's Republic.

As a result of visits by state and party delegations under my leadership to the SRV, the Republic of Cuba, socialist Ethiopia, the People's Republic of Angola, the People's Republic of Mozambique and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, we are now also linked with these fraternal countries by treaties on friendship and cooperation. They are proving their worth as long term bases for the development of our relations. (strong applause)

Our friendship and comradely cooperation with the SFRY is successfully developing. The visit by our party-government delegation to the Korean Democratic People's Republic has initiated a new phase of fraternal cooperation.

The inspiring forces behind this are the Marxist-Leninist parties. Their fighting partnership has been further consolidated. At the same time, the exchange of experiences and their collective generalization were promoted. [paragraph continues]

Important stimuli for resolving the frequently complicated questions coming up in socialist construction and cooperation are provided by the meetings of the political consultative committee and the meetings of leading representatives of the Warsaw Pact member countries, the CEMA meetings, and the annual meetings of Central Committee general secretaries and first secretaries with Comrade Leonid Brezhnev in the Crimea.

Our party emphatically endorses the proposal submitted by Comrade Leonid Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress that the leading politicians of the fraternal countries meet in the near future in order to collectively discuss problems of economic policy that have newly arisen in life. In our opinion, the joint general application of the best experiences in socialist and communist construction, and the gradual coordination of the structures of economic mechanisms would benefit all fraternal countries.

Our socialist community is standing its test as a totally new type of alliance based on identical socioeconomic and political foundations, on the uniform ideology of Marxism-Leninism, on the community of communist aims and interests, and on the international solidarity of the working people. It has passed the tests of class struggle, the struggle with imperialism, and has successfully solved many problems posed by life. We know from our own experience that true friendship manifests itself above all in complicated situations. This also applies to our fraternal relations with the Polish People's Republic.

As we all know, the serious difficulties with which the PZPR is confronted are continuing. From the very beginning our party has declared its fraternal solidarity with the Polish communists, with all patriots of Poland who endeavor to defend and strengthen socialism in their country. We have acted accordingly, and will continue to do so. (strong applause) All the more so since the Polish comrades, during the meeting of leading representatives of the Warsaw Pact member states in December 1980 in Moscow, declared, in the face of all machinations by counterrevolutionary forces, that the Polish People's Republic was, is and will remain socialist. (prolonged applause)

In the struggle for solving the most burning problem in mankind's life, the struggle for peace, progress and independence of people and against imperialism, it would be of great importance if a country as big as the PRC were to make its positive contribution. Unfortunately, it must be stated that the contrary is still the case. China's foreign policy collaboration with the United States benefits the confrontation policy of the most reactionary circles of world imperialism. This applies especially to Beijing's anti-Sovietism and its hostile attitude toward the countries of the socialist community. The overcoming of the Maoist inheritance, that is being described by China's current leaders themselves as calamitous, is turning out to be a complicated process, full of contradictions. Hence it remains to be seen what the changes that have now started will result in. As far as the GDR is concerned, it continues to be ready to normalize its relations with the PRC in accordance with the principles of equal rights, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and noninterference. We are convinced that a policy of peace and normal relations would also be in the interests of the Chinese people themselves.

4. New Tasks in the Struggle for Peace, the Vital Question of Mankind

Dear comrades, socialism and peace are of an identical nature. On our side, no one makes money from armament, no one is interested in enriching himself from foreign territories and raw material resources, or in bending the sovereign rights of other peoples. Socialist construction proceeds from the industrious, creative work of the people, and in order to be able to better and better bear fruit for everyone, it needs peace.

In the past 5 years, our party's Central Committee has again done a great deal of work to make a constructive contribution toward solving this vitally important problem, toward security and cooperation. Thus we have acted in keeping with the fundamental interests of our people, and at the same time with the international responsibility of the GDR which is situated on the dividing line between socialism and imperialism, between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

For quite some time now, the international situation has considerably worsened due to the machinations of the most aggressive forces of imperialism, especially the United States, and due to NATO's intensified armament policy. The change from the policy of detente to the course of confrontation, that is being undertaken by powerful circles of monopoly capital, is accompanied by unconcealed preparations for war. Thus everything can be destroyed which has been accomplished with great pains on the road of detente, especially in Europe, in which international relations have been tangibly eased.

The world situation has been most seriously strained by the 1978 NATO long-term armament program, the 1979 Brussels missile decision by that Western alliance, the nonratification of the SALT II treaty on the part of the United States, and last but not least by its nuclear strategy announced a few months ago. Moreover, in the past few months there have been alarming reports that the United States, despite the fact that it had been compelled to withdraw them some time ago by the people's protests, now plans after all to introduce the neutron weapon and also to force its deployment upon the West European alliance partners. All this is in striking contrast to the interests of the people and their demands for concrete steps serving the urgently needed complementing of political detente by disarmament.

Those in NATO to whom peaceful coexistence has always been a thorn in the side clearly intend to seek a military-strategic superiority over the socialist community states. At the same time, they know very well that it is precisely the existing military-strategic balance which is of fundamental importance for the preservation of peace, for the relations between states of the two social and alliance systems and for international cooperation. But not only do they act against this better judgement, they also fan tensions and hotbeds of conflict in various regions of the globe, for example in the Middle East. As you know, the United States has already declared half the world its "sphere of interest." All those are worrying facts.

Comrades, in this situation when everyone feels how much is at stake for the future not only of Europe but of all mankind, Comrade Leonid Brezhnev has again submitted a large program of action for peace at the 26th CPSU Congress. His proposals for arms limitation and armament, for confidence-building measures, for the containment and elimination of hotbeds of conflict are of extraordinary importance for international politics. Thereby, the process of detente that has been brought to a standstill by advocates of the imperialist policy of confrontation has been given a powerful impetus. From the rostrum of our 10th party congress, I want to declare that we fully and entirely support the peace proposals of the Soviet Union, which are in the interest of all peoples. (prolonged, stormy applause)

Undoubtedly, today additional new efforts are necessary in order to ban the danger of war, in particular of a nuclear inferno, and to consolidate international security. The Soviet Union is prepared to extend the confidence-building measures in the military field which have been agreed upon in Helsinki and considerably increase their scope of application. They are to be extended to the entire European part of the USSR, provided that an appropriate extension of the zone for confidence-building measures is made by the Western countries as well. Moreover, the Soviet Union is prepared to hold detailed negotiations on confidence-building measures for the Far East with all countries interested.

The Soviet Union proposes to conclude agreements on the Gulf region as an independent problem. The Soviet Union is also prepared to participate in a separate settlement of the situation concerning Afghanistan and has no objections to questions concerning Afghanistan being discussed in coordination with security issues of the Gulf region. In this case, it states, of course only international aspects of the Afghanistan problem may be discussed. The sovereignty of Afghanistan has to be fully preserved, as well as its status as a nonaligned country.

Concerning the limitation of strategic armaments and their reduction the USSR proposes to continue appropriate negotiations with the United States without any delay, preserving all positive achievements made so far in this field. It is also prepared to conclude agreements on a limitation in the field of the new submarines of the two countries, as well as on a ban on modernizing the existing ballistic missiles with which these submarines are equipped, and on developing new ones.

According to another one of these important proposals, an agreement should be concluded now providing for the adoption of a moratorium regarding the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles of the NATO countries and the USSR. That is to say, these means, including the forward-based U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe, are to be quantitatively and qualitatively frozen at existing levels.

The Soviet Union proposes creating an authoritative international committee that would demonstrate the vital necessity of preventing a nuclear catastrophe. The committee could be made up of renowned scientists of the most diverse countries. Finally the USSR recommends convening a special meeting of the Security Council with the highest-ranking representatives of its member countries participating, in order to seek solutions to the problems of improving the international situation and preventing war. In such a meeting leaders of other countries could also participate if they wish.

Each of those proposals by itself and all of them together are proof of a constructive approach, consistently aimed at peace, to the most pressing issues of international relations. Their aim is not just a temporary but a thorough and long-term recovery of the world situation so that peace may be lastingly stabilized. He who sees matters as they are, he who acts with reason and a statesmanlike sense of responsibility, he who has the good of the peoples at heart, cannot but see the convincing power of the Soviet initiative.

The GDR continues to consistently pursue a clear peace concept. That concept combines constructive steps to secure peace with that which is necessary for the military defense of our socialist fatherland. If the longest period of peace so far in our century in Europe is to last, then it must be possible to achieve a change toward disarmament during the eighties. It must be possible to restrain NATO's confrontation politicians and to frustrate their aims. People should not go about their day-to-day business in fear of war but in secure peace which should finally become their normal way of life. Our policy aims at that goal.

As the Warsaw and Moscow meetings of the political consultative committee of the Warsaw Pact stipulates we will continue the peace offensive of our socialist community together with our allies. In view of the urgency of the disarmament problem the convening of an all-European conference on military detente and disarmament by the Madrid followup meeting of the Helsinki conference would be of great use. The Polish People's Republic has submitted a proposal on that which takes into account the real situation and proceeds from the considerations and ideas of other countries. Therefore this proposal can serve as a solid basis for an agreement. We fully support it.

Comrades, within the context of peaceful coexistence the GDR has further developed its relations with capitalist countries. Since the Helsinki conference, over 190 accords and agreements have been concuded with those countries, which embrace nearly all spheres of relations. Such steps serve the improvement of the European climate, going beyond bilateral interests.

We will continue to implement exactly the Helsinki Final Act as a whole, as a program to strengthen detente in all its main directions. For that purpose we have submitted proposals for developing relations in various important fields to a number of countries participating in the Helsinki conference. It remains to be hoped that they will respond positively.

We support all efforts that may contribute to promoting the relations with those NATO countries, which, for their part, are prepared to develop their relations with the Warsaw Pact countries on the basis of equality and equal security. It goes without saying that we do not intend to develop relations with any one country at the expense of others.

This also applies to our relations with the FRG. To avoid any misunderstanding--we are not toying here with the idea of loosening its relations with its alliance partners, especially with the United States. Nor do we dream about the possibility of being able to maintain good relations with the FRG, one of the strongest NATO states, if the relations between the United States and the USSR are being exacerbated through an incalculable policy of the United States aimed at confrontation. [paragraph continues]

Rather, we proceed from the premise that the development of normal relations between the GDR and the FRG based on the principles of peaceful coexistence is of considerable importance, not only for both German states but, in addition, for the overall situation in Europe.

What is important in relations between the two German states is not indulging in all-German phrases, nor should there be attempts to dodge in political discussion the fact that two German states exist, which long ago have confirmed each other as subjects of international law. It is not only in the GDR's national interest, but also in the national interest of the FRG to draw the necessary conclusions from that in practical politics and, as far as the FRG is concerned, to dissociate itself from the assumption of seeking to speak "for all Germans."

Our primary aim in our policy toward the FRG is to serve peace and to lastingly secure it. Only what benefits peace is advantageous to the people in both German states, to all peoples on our continent. In order to make clear once and for all the GDR's position on this vital issue, I outlined the principles of our domestic and foreign policy in my speech to the party activists of Gera.

Leading FRG politicians, such as Chancellor Schmidt, have repeatedly declared that they, too, do not want a new war to emanate from German territory. We have taken note of that with appropriate seriousness and are prepared to take it into consideration in our policy. But, as things are in life, above all it is deeds that are decisive for peace. In that respect, the FRG continues to present a rather contradictory picture.

We have always been ready to constructively contribute to developing normal and even good-neighborly relations between the GDR and the FRG. That will continue. However, the relations between the two German states cannot be detached from the international situation. He who pushes the NATO intensified armament, who affects the military-strategic balance in Europe with new nuclear missiles, creates facts which work against further normalization between the two German states and which endanger what has been achieved.

The insistence on revanchist doctrines about the "continued existence of the German reich within the 1937 borders" is, as has been shown by the discussion that has developed in the FRG--even in the assessment of certain circles there--anachronistic and dangerous and thus untenable. As a result of World War II and the postwar events, two sovereign German states that are independent from one another have developed--the socialist GDR and the capitalist FRG. They belong to different alliances, the Warsaw Pact and NATO, respectively.

Reason and good will require that those facts be taken into consideration in politics. The GDR people, in concurrence with the historical process of the worldwide transition of mankind from capitalism to socialism, have taken the irrevocable decision for socialism. (prolonged, strong applause) Under the leadership of the workers class the GDR people have established themselves as a socialist German nation. No one is in a position to alter anything about that.

In developing GDR-FRG relations it is therefore necessary to proceed without any reservations from the existence of two sovereign states that are independent from one another, with different social systems. Between them, there can only be relations of peaceful coexistence, relations based on the principles of international law laid down in the European treaty system, in the UN Charter and also in the Helsinki Final Act. The GDR party and government unreservedly declare their adherence to the contractual bases of GDR-FRG cooperation as well as to the agreed aims and principles, especially the sovereignty of all states, respect for independence, autonomy and territorial integrity, noninterference, the right to self-determination, observance of human rights and nondiscrimination. Provided that all that were fully respected, it should certainly be possible to achieve positive new results in developing relations between the GDR and the FRG.

That also means that both German states should abstain from testing how far the Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin (West) of 3 September 1971 can be strained. For GDR is in favor of letting Berlin (West) live quietly and normally.

This requires strict observance and full application of the Quadripartite Agreement, especially of the key stipulation that Berlin (West) is not a component part of the FRG and shall continue not to be governed by it. Accordingly we have taken multifaceted initiatives to develop and expand our relations with Berlin (West). Of course every agreement proceeding from the principle of mutual advantage is undeniably beneficial for the permanent residents of Berlin (West). What is harmful, however, are the more and more frequent attempts to treat Berlin (West), in contradiction to the Quadripartite Agreement, as an FRG land, and to even drag it into the wake of the NATO policy.

Both in the interest of peace and of order in this area we can only counsel an attitude of reason. As before, we are prepared to negotiate with the Berlin (West) Senat about matters of mutual interest and to seek solutions that benefit both sides.

Comrades, no one can overlook the great and growing activities of the liberated states of Africa, Asia and Latin America in international relations, in the struggle for peace, security and disarmament against the remnants of colonialism, neocolonialism and racism. These states are making energetic use of the sovereignty and independence they have won. Their say in deciding the great issues of our time is gaining more and more weight.

Our party, our socialist state have wholeheartedly welcomed and always supported this progressive development. Since the ninth party congress we have further expanded our relations with the liberated states of Africa, Asia and Latin America. We are linked by the anti-imperialist struggle for peace, freedom and social progress. Here the fundamental goals of real socialism and of the national and social liberation struggle are interwined. We are linked by the firm solidarity against colonialism, racism and apartheid, against imperialist tutelage and interference.

In the past 5 years the GDR has again rendered internationalist aid to these states. We concentrate the mutually advantageous cooperation on such areas which play a predominant role in overcoming economic backwardness, and obtaining and strengthening economic independence.

It is obvious that the liberated countries above all need qualified cadres for the various sectors of life. Since the ninth party congress, 8,500 young citizens of these countries have been trained in the GDR as skilled workers and engineer-instructors. More and more foreign students are admitted to our universities and colleges. Through the FDJ friendship brigades 2,750 apprentices received a skilled workers training, especially in the African and Arab countries.

The growing international role of the young states of Africa, Asia and Latin America, which have emerged from the national liberation movements, goes hand in hand with far-reaching domestic policy changes that are aimed at breaking with the colonial past in the fields of politics and economy, culture and ideology. The socialist alternative as a course of development is increasingly gaining in attractiveness and influence. The social content of the national liberation movement is deepening. This is evidenced by the people's revolutions in the People's Republic of Mozambique, the People's Republic of Angola, in socialist Ethiopia, in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the progressive changes in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Grenada. We appreciate the fact that the revolutionary forces of these countries are turning to scientific socialism, and are pursuing their road under the leadership of vanguard parties.

The conclusion of treaties on friendship and cooperation in 1979 marked a new phase of our relations with some of these states. Meanwhile, these treaties have been underpinned, and life has been breathed into them by a whole system of agreements and accords in the most varied fields. Political contacts at high and the highest levels between social organizations are a firm component part of the multifarious relations.

From the rostrum of our party congress, we are greeting all fighters for national and social liberation in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and assure them that they can at all times fully rely on our party, on the GDR people, in their difficult struggle for national sovereignty and the happiness of their peoples. (prolonged, stormy applause)

The GDR values the movement of the nonaligned states. Their anti-imperialist goals play an important role in the struggle for peace, for a just system of international political and economic relations based on equal rights.

As far as the Middle East is concerned, the GDR, as before, holds the view that a prerequisite for peace and security in this region is Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and the guarantee of the inalienable rights of the Arab peoples of Palestine including their right to return to their homeland, to self determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state. (strong applause) The key to a stable settlement of the Middle East conflict is and will remain the Palestinian question. We demand that those who so far have denied any recognition of the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people at long last recognize realities. We unreservedly support the new constructive proposal of the USSR to convene an international conference to solve the Middle East problem. (strong applause)

Dear comrades, for the coming years our party has set itself the following priority foreign policy goals:

--purposeful development of the fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community on the basis of the concluded friendship treaties, a course aimed at all-round strengthening and increasing the international attractiveness of socialism by constantly perfecting the development and utilization of its advantages.

--unswerving, persevering work to safeguard peace and to halt the arms race with the aim of defending and expanding political detente and stabilizing and making it irreversible primarily by measures of military detente and disarmament.

--active anti-imperialist solidarity with all peoples struggling for their national and social liberation, development of a multifaceted cooperation with the states of Africa, Asia and Latin America, support of the struggle for a new, international economic system on the basis of equal rights.

--consistent endeavors to develop relations of peaceful coexistence with the capitalist countries, intensification of the contacts and agreements with the aim of deepening cooperation in the interest of peace and mutual advantage, and of thwarting the confrontation policy of the aggressive circles.

II. The Results of the Achievements of the Working People and the Implementation of Our Sociopolitical Program Since the Ninth Party Congress

Comrades, in our country the historic process of far-reaching political, economic, social and intellectual-cultural changes, as our party characterizes the shaping of the developed socialist society in its program, is in full flow. It has reached all social fields and has brought about important results for our people since the ninth party congress. What our party said at its ninth congress on this part on the path to socialism and communism is taking a more and more definite shape in life. The productive forces have been further developed dynamically, and socialist production conditions further shaped. The material and cultural living standard of the people has risen continually and in many ways.

The determining factor for our overall social development is the fact that we have succeeded in dynamically increasing the economic capacity of the GDR. As is well known, imperialist crises and soaring prices in the world market exerted negative influences on our economy, the full cost of which to our republic could not be exactly determined at the time of the ninth party congress.

But even when the burdens proved to be heavy, our party continued, loyal to its principles, to steer the course of the main task, of the unity of economic and social policy, and thus mastered the demands of life. The GDR successfully responded to more unfavorable foreign economic conditions by a further growth in output and an increase in labor productivity. Thus the foundations of social security and social progress were reliably guaranteed and developed.

In view of the crises and setbacks in nearly all capitalist countries, the people of the GDR valued such stability and continuity all the more, and responded with a high readiness for achievement. The close relationship of trust between party and people, which we regard as our greatest possession, has been further consolidated.

Under the leadership of the party, the advantages of socialism have been put into practical policy in accordance with the new conditions and requirements. We increasingly implemented the possibilities of the socialist planned economy to use scientific-technological progress to the benefit of the people and to mobilize the energies of the working people for this great task. This goes to the credit of the scientific policy of our party, which is based on the objective economic laws of socialism and effectively uses it under the conditions of our country. That calls for purposeful and modern management and planning based on the initiative and experiences of the masses, as well as for qualified industrious work. Our successes develop from there.

The eighties await us with higher demands and new development problems. There are still unsatisfactory things, too. Our party is well aware of that. However, we enter this decade with results that prove our strength. The trust of the people strengthens us in our determination and confidence. We enter the eighties with the energy of a great mass movement, deeply imbued with the prospects of the socialist revolution in our republic, with creativity and great zest for achievement.

Today we are rendering an account of the results from the work of the past 5 years. During the last 5-year plan a national income of M812.5 billion (base on effective prices--NEUES DEUTSCHLAND footnote) was produced. Compared to 1971-75 this is an increase by M172.1 billion. The growth amounts to 25.4 percent. Continuity and dynamism characterized the path of our economy in the seventies. In this decade the GDR people produced a national income of M1.453 trillion approximately as much as in the previous 20 years. Our economy's industrial goods production amounted in 1976-80 to M1.625 trillion, 32.2 percent more than in the previous 5-year plan. In the decade since 1971 the goods production figure of M2.663 trillion was again higher than in the previous 20 years. Building production in the economy from 1976-80 amounted to an overall figure of M153.9 billion. Compared to the previous 5-year plan, this is an increase in performance by 27 percent.

In the period 1976-80 25.9 percent more goods were transported than in the previous 5-year plan. If we look again at the past decade, then the transport volume during that time was higher than during the 20 years before.

If one reduces agricultural results in crop and animal production to a common denominator and calculates them in terms of grain units, then 239 million tons of foodstuffs and raw materials were produced in the last 5 years. In the seventies the total growth amounted to 20.1 percent. In the first 10 years after socialist reconstruction, it amounted to 10.8 percent.

In the 1976-80 period M650 billion were allocated for individual and social consumption, 24.9 percent more than in the previous 5-year plan. In the whole of the seventies, approximately the same amount was spent in this field as in the preceding 20 years. The net cash income of the people rose from M101 billion in 1975 to M121.3 billion in 1980. During the same time, the retail trade turnover rose from M81.9 billion to M100 billion. These figures alone show the far-reaching effect of the unity of economic and social policy on the people's life.

The GDR has maintained its position among the world's 10 most important industrialized countries. In view of the hard economic struggles with the imperialist countries under conditions of rapid progress of productive forces, such a position actually has to be achieved anew again and again. The economic rank of a country is increasingly determined by its ability to score high scientific-technological achievements and to use them prudently from an economic view point. Our achievements prove that our party has reacted in time to new demands, thoroughly analyzed them together with the working people and has drawn far-reaching conclusions from them.

The Central Committee has always treated the strengthening of the material-technical basis, economic growth and the raising of labor productivity as central tasks for shaping the developed socialist society. A steady economic growth is indispensible for socialism, because the needs of the people, the requirements of our socialist society continue to develop, and it is only possible to distribute what has first been produced.

Our party has farsightedly taken these necessities into account. That is why in the concluded 5-year plan the large amount of M185.3 billion was provided for accumulation. That, too, is more than in the past. But what is most important is that we have better and better succeeded in making intensification of social production the main path of economic growth. Only along this main path were the economic successes of the 1970's possible.

Thus labor productivity in the national economy went up 53.6 percent within one decade. It developed even more quickly in industry, where in 1980 it was 68 percent higher than in 1970 per worker and employee and, based on the number of hours worked, even 81 percent higher. Today the growth of the national product is 90 percent due to the increase in labor productivity. That was largely a result of the fact that the share of wage and salary earners with completed vocational training or university education went up from 70.7 percent in 1975 to 80.2 percent in 1980. About 95 percent of the young people who are taking up work today have vocational training.

Science and technology have increasingly proved to be the main factor of intensification, the most important motive force for rising productivity and effectiveness. The potential of our republic in this field is substantial and has been further developed according to the plan. In the past 5 years we have put M32.2 billion into science and technology. At present, 1.4 million people are working in our economy who have graduated from universities or technical schools. That is twice as many as in 1970. Thus timely, decisive prerequisites were established for the further performance increase in production and in all sectors of social life.

Scientific-technical progress is increasingly focusing on the main directions laid down in the decisions of the party. Its national economic effectiveness has increased. A substantially larger part of the results of the science and technology state plan, which were introduced into production, have contributed to setting the advanced international level. About 25,000 inventions--4,000 more than in the preceding 5-year plan period--were patented in the GDR from 1976-1980. The yield of these inventions has doubled.

The material-technical basis of our national economy was further perfected, strengthened and modernized--a process that is inseparably linked with the acceleration of scientific-technical progress. To this end, between 1976 and 1980 we invested M250 billion, M57 billion more than in the preceding 5-year period. The basic assets of the national economy rose from M577 billion in 1975 to M717 billion in 1980. Here we observed clear-cut priorities. About 60 percent of all industrial investments served to expand our energy basis and domestic raw material production. Substantial efforts were made to increase the quality level of means of production. Thus the degree of automation in industrial production equipment went up from 33 percent in 1970 to 42 percent in 1975 and to 49 percent in 1980.

Comrades, the present productive power of our national economy rests decisively on the strong dynamism of state-owned industry. Its contribution to producing the national income further increased as a result of its above-average growth rate, and in 1980 reached 61.9 percent. Industry achieved about three quarters of the national income increase in 1976-80. In this period, it turned out a production volume of M1.56 trillion. As compared with the preceding 5-year period, production went up 31.5 percent. The production of rationalization means for the national economy went up even quicker; namely, by 60 percent. The share of industry in the GDR's total exports is 93 percent. In the past 5 years industry exports in terms of quantity went up to 140.7 percent. Thus they have grown faster than the actual production.

The solving of a number of fundamental economic development problems, initiated in the early 1970's, was purposefully continued. This applies especially to strengthening the energy and raw material basis, faster development of our own consumer goods production, continuous supply of the economy with raw and other materials, as well as priority for expanding the subcontractor industry. With everything that still remains to be done, the results of these efforts are still considerable.

In the past few years there has thus been a tangible expansion and technical renewal of the GDR's power and fuel industry. Since 1976, new power plant units with a capacity of about 4,300 megawatts have been put into operation. In 1980 about every other kilowatt hour of electric power was produced by power plants that had been installed in the 1970's. The share of nuclear energy in electric power production, which in 1970 was below 1 percent, increased in 1980 to 12 percent.

In the years 1976-1980, 1.268 billion tons of crude brown coal were produced. Last year even the high 1975 level was exceeded by 11 million tons. During that period, the surface minds of Baerwalde, Schlabendorf Sued, Jaenschwalde and Groitzscher Dreieck brown coal production has begun. At the surface mines of Berzdorf, Profen Sued, Grefenhain, Goitsche, Klettwitz and Welzow Sued capacities were substantially expanded. Last year domestic brown coal covered 60 percent of the entire primary energy production.

All industrial sectors have scored results of considerable economic weight. The progress achieved is increasingly marked by the struggle for higher refinement of production and its growing effectiveness. Thus the chemical industry solved important tasks in optimal use of raw materials, especially the increased utilization of oil as a raw material. On this basis, a higher growth rate was achieved in the production of organic basic chemicals. In metallurgy, emphasis was on producing high quality goods from low quantities of raw materials. This was aided by the essential strengthening of the material-technical basis of metallurgy. Machine-building and electrical engineering-electronics, sectors that are so important for our industrial structure achieved an above-average growth rate, especially in high-quality products.

The success of our concentrated efforts to achieve scientific-technological progress was particularly clearly evident in the electronics sector. On the basis of the Central Committee decisions, as you know, production capacities for microelectronics and robot technology were established and developed at an accelerated pace.

Today the GDR belongs to the few countries in the world which have at their disposal the potential for developing and producing microelectronic components, and for producing the selected starting materials and high-quality technological equipment required for them. In 1976 we turned out only a small number of microelectronic components worth a few million marks. In 1980, we reached a production worth nearly M1 billion. The qualitative change is reflected in the fact that the production of highly integrated circuits will be trebled until 1985, compared with 1980. Now, at the end of the past 5 years, we have 8 basic technologies and are working on expanding them in the coming years to 15-17.

As far as the development of the consumer-goods industry is concerned, to which our party devoted great attention, it has also brought tangible positive results. Not only did light industry production expand and improve the quality of its products--though still not to a sufficient degree--but also all other sectors of the national economy contributed to expanding the consumer goods supply. Substantial capacities were created to that end. Thus, for example, the production of color TV sets went up from 50,200 in 1975 to 263,000 last year, and that of household refrigerators from 526,700 in 1975 to 636,000 in 1980. One could, of course, list many more. In the past 5 years we invested about M25 billion in consumer goods production.

Comrades, the Central Committee can report to the party congress that substantial progress has been made in the economical use of materials. The specific use of economically important energy resources, raw materials and materials declined in the years 1976-80 by about 3.9 percent on an annual average. The rate of this decline increased year after year, and in 1980 a decline of 5.9 percent was achieved. The 5-year plan provided for an annual rate of 3 percent.

All that must be valued all the more highly in the light of the fact that especially in the second half of the 1970's increasing additional burdens on the economy developed. As you know, they resulted primarily from the price development and the ensuing difficulties in acquiring raw materials and fuels in the world markets. The expenditure for domestic raw materials and energy resources--of which we used more--also went up substantially. In this connection the production targets in some individual annual plans for a number of oil processing industry products, rolled steel, electric power and others were reduced. That was in the interest of the national economy.

Crop losses in agriculture caused by unfavorable weather conditions, which occurred especially in 1976 but also in subsequent years, necessitated additional imports. Above all we had to import more grain and fodder. The extremely bad weather conditions at the beginning of 1979 caused crop damages and losses worth about M10 billion.

The multifarious activities of the working people to lower the use of materials in production, to reduce imports and to better utilize raw materials and other materials helped lessen the effects of these negative influences. In management work and in socialist competition qualitative growth factors moved even more into the foreground. This process developed more quickly than we had originally envisaged in planning. By about mid-1979 we thus succeeded in accelerating the performance growth rate in the national economy. If until then the average annual growth rate of the produced national income was around 3.7 percent, it is now approaching the 5 percent mark. The development rate of industry was even higher.

Dear comrades, we note with satisfaction that socialist agriculture has been further consolidated politically, economically and socially. It has again proved to be a stable factor of our social development. Its management has been further improved, in line with the development of socialist democracy in the LPG's and other agricultural institutions.

Life confirms again and again that socialist production conditions in agriculture are part of a socialist system. On the basis of these production conditions, essential differences between town and countryside were further reduced. From 1976 to 1980 agriculture achieved the highest production result in any 5-year plan to date. If we take crop and animal production together, then 8.7 million tons--calculated in terms of grain units--more were produced in the 1976-80 period than in the 1971-75 period. The production of slaughter cattle and eggs went up by more than 12 percent, of milk by 6 percent and of wool by 30 percent.

If we compare the last two decades, crop production in the 1970's was 15 percent higher, and animal production 34 percent higher. The grain crop alone went up in the past decade by 24.9 million tons to 88.6 million tons.

The production of slaughter animals was up 6.7 million tons and at the same time livestock was substantially expanded. At present we have the largest number of cattle and hogs to date. In 1980, we had 5.7 million head of cattle and 12.9 million hogs, substantially more than in 1970 and 1975.

Since the ninth party congress socialist production conditions in agriculture have been further deepened. The division of labor, concentration and specialization of production were successfully continued along the path of cooperation. This created favorable conditions to further develop production forces. Modern crop and animal production LPG's and state farms have developed.

Here we are taking into consideration that the LPG's cultivate 87.6 percent, and the state farms 6.9 percent of the agricultural acreage. With a view to further raising yields, we are paying special attention not only to them but also to individual private plot farming. As experience shows, the promotion of individual private holdings as well as of the Union of Small Gardeners, Settlers and Small Livestock Breeders is an additional important contribution to supplies. This applies to the breeding of hogs, cattle, poultry and other animals as well as to improving the supply of the market with fruit, vegetables, honey and other products. It is noteworthy that the Union of Small Gardeners, Settlers and Small Livestock Breeders has been able to increase its membership total from 800,000 in 1970 to 1 million in 1980.

Through its mounting production agriculture ensured that the population's growing demand for important basic foodstuffs was steadily met. Thus the slaughter-animal production of 2.5 million tons in 1980 created the prerequisite for the people's per capita consumption of 89.4 kilos of meat and meat products. That is 23.3 kilos more than in 1970. Regarding other staple foodstuffs such as milk, cheese, butter and eggs the GDR is also among the countries with the highest per capita consumption. It meets that demand on the basis of growing domestic production.

Great achievements were also scored by the forestry workers. They produced 11.6 percent more raw timber than in 1975. At the same time the living wood stocks increased by 10 stock cubic meters [vorratsfestmeter] per hectare. A great deal was accomplished with the aid of many voluntary helpers in processing windfall and snowbreak timber.

To strengthen the production basis of agriculture, M25.4 billion were invested under the past 5-year plan. That is one-tenth of all funds allotted to the GDR national economy. Today our agriculture has 29 percent more basic assets than only 5 years ago. In 1980, the allotments were M74,000 per working person in this sector. In the enterprises and agricultural cooperatives 147,904 tractors, 54,567 trucks and 13,582 harvester threshers with high technical efficiency are in use. Their constantly better utilization and maintenance constitute a large reserve.

M7 billion were spent on the transition to animal production with industrial methods. With these funds, over 1.1 million stable places for hog breeding and 950,000 stable places for cattle were newly built or reconstructed. At present more than one-fifth of our large-animal livestock is kept in modern, highly productive large plants. M4 billion was invested in soil amelioration, which has essentially improved soil fertility on 747,000 hectares of agricultural land. Socialist rationalization and the use of modern technology helped tangibly increase production and at the same time reduce the number of workers.

In accordance with the assignment of the ninth party congress, new model statutes and internal regulations for crop and animal production LPG's were worked out. They were discussed and confirmed by cooperative peasants conferences, and adopted by the Council of Ministers. Under the new conditions cooperative democracy has been strengthened and further developed. Nearly 20 percent of all cooperative peasants participate in the work of LPG managements, management commissions, and department and brigade councils. Moreover, many of them work in the cooperation councils. About 11,000 cooperative peasants and other working people are actively working in the kreis councils for agriculture and foodstuffs industry.

Comrades, in connection with changed international conditions foreign trade has more and more become a key issue of all economic growth. The 1980 GDR trade turnover was 161 percent of that of 1975. The further development of our fraternal cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other CEMA countries was and continues to be the solid foundation of the stability and dynamics of our economic progress. The program of specialization and cooperation between the GDR and the USSR until 1990 has opened new dimensions for our collaboration. In 1980 some 70 percent of the GDR's total foreign trade was with socialist countries. The volume of trade with countries of the nonsocialist economic region rose between 1976 and 1980 by 82 percent.

The higher results achieved in the national economy also permitted the point by point fulfillment of the sociopolitical targets. Everything that the ninth party congress had stipulated to improve the working people's working and living conditions, and that subsequently was made specific by the Central Committee, the FDGB Federal Executive Committee and the GDR Council of Ministers in joint decisions, has been fulfilled. The fact that economic and social policy in our country constitute a firm unity was one of the most essential experiences of the people in the past 5 years. Today it can be said that this unity, which is based on the joint work of all people, complies with their basic concepts of further shaping the developed socialist society.

Let us start with the centerpiece of our sociopolitical program, housing construction. In 1976-80, 813,000 homes were built. This is 63,000 more homes than stipulated in the plan. Reviewing the whole last decade, 1.4 million homes were newly constructed or modernized. Thus in the last 10 years living conditions of 4.25 million people were improved.

Our capital Berlin has been considerably changed in its appearance. It develops more and more as a political, economic and intellectual-cultural center of the GDR. Working people of all our districts do their best, and above all the young people in the "FDJ Initiative Berlin."

The net cash incomes of the people are constantly rising. In these 5 years they amounted to an overall figure of M569.2 billion. This development is taking place in accordance with the socialist performance principle. Thus in accordance with the earlier mentioned common decisions M6.7 billion were spent on a performance-oriented policy and for higher minimum wages. Altogether 1.8 million production workers--together with an improvement of the scientific labor organization--were paid productive wages in the form of performance-oriented basic wages. Performance-oriented salaries were introduced for about 450,000 masters and advanced and technical school cadres.

In 1976, minimum wages were increased again, namely to M400. In this connection differentiated wages were raised up to M500.

This especially affected the incomes of the workers class. On an average of the national economy, the monthly gross working income per worker and employee rose from M889 in 1975 to M1,030 in 1980. Of course these are only average figures in which the many improvements for the most diverse groups of working people were reduced to a common denominator. They demonstrate that the overall level of incomes has gone up considerably.

In the 1970's, a total of M17 billion were spent on raising pensions and social security benefits. Important measures for reducing the legal working hours and extending annual leave for the working people went into effect during the past few years. In 1979 annual leave was increased for 8.7 million working people by 3 days. Since 1977 over 1.2 million shift workers have been granted an additional 3 days of vacation. Their working hours per week were reduced to 42 or 40 hours. Beginning with 1981, for about 750,000 of those shift workers who work in three shifts, or in two shifts without interruption, this additional vacation is increased to 5, 8 or 10 days respectively in accordance with the appropriate shift schedule.

In 1980 the FDGB vacation service and the socialist enterprises assigned 4.6 million vacation trips to the working people and their families. A total of 90,000 trips of the FDGB vacation service alone were given to families with three or more children.

In the activity of the Central Committee, the improvement of supplies for the people has always played an important role. The main point here was to guarantee a stable supply of basic consumer goods and to systematically increase the supply of industrial consumer goods.

In 1976-80, the retail trade turnover amounted to an overall figure of M463.3 billion. In 1980 the people received considerably more and better goods than in 1975. Let us review some important groups of goods:

In 1980, trade supplied 79 million units of household linen, as against 66 million units in 1975. The 1980 total included 22.3 million units of bed linen, which is considerably more than in 1975 when 16.7 million units were supplied to the market. During the same period, the annual goods supply to the market for household porcelain increased from M149.7 million to M219.4 million, for knitted underwear from 127.7 million units to 154.8 million units, for knitted outerwear from 44.2 million units to 45.1 million, for hosiery from 121.3 million pairs to 148.5 million pairs. In 1975, 349,300 washing machines were supplied and in 1980 398,400. The annual supply to the market of radio recorders increased in this period from 119,300 to 268,300 and that of vacuum cleaners from 495,300 to 597,600 units. All these are respectable growth rates although, of course, the demand is also growing.

Let us single out some of the things which have been done especially for children. In 1980, the 1975 supply figures for baby food were surpassed by 41 percent, for baby wear by 177 percent, for knitted children's outerwear by 82 percent, and for knitted children's underwear by 116 percent and--not to forget--for baby-carriages by 38 percent. Priority was given to expanding the clothing supply for young people. Thanks to appropriate expansions, we now have 284 children's wear centers and 168 youth fashion centers.

The equipment of households with durable technical consumer goods clearly demonstrates progress in the supply of high-quality industrial goods. In 1970, 56 out of every 100 GDR households had a refrigerator, in 1980 it was 99 households. In this period the number of television sets per 100 households increased from 69 to 90. The number of washing machines per 100 households increased from 54 in 1970 to 82 in 1980. In 1970, 16 in every 100 households had a car, in 1980 it was 37.

As you know, our party is calling for quicker application of scientific-technological progress in the production of consumer goods. Thus, especially in recent years, new and further developed high-quality products have appeared on the market. Among them are such products as coffee machines, steam irons, stereo cassette tape recorders, compact stereo sets, color television sets, subminiature cameras, and quartz watches and clocks. One could continue this enumeration. Now emphasis is increasingly being placed on covering the demand for such products. In accordance with the rapidly growing demand, more goods were also supplied in the "delicate and exquisite products" category.

Progress was also achieved in supplying the workers. The number of participants in enterprise meal programs increased by 300,000 as against 1975. Particular attention was paid to higher food quality and a better supply of shift workers. In addition, more working people of small and medium enterprises were included in meal programs. Under provisions contained in enterprise collective bargaining agreements, subsidies for these programs from social funds and enterprises have also considerably increased. The number of students who had their meals at school increased from 68 percent in 1975 to 78 percent in 1980. The meal program regulations adopted in 1975, which differentiate between the needs of the various age groups, have generally become effective. As many as 66 students out of every 100 are making use of school milk programs.

The measures designed to promote the commission dealers, private retailers, restauranteurs, and crafts enterprises have proved their worth. Since 1975 the local state organs have granted 7,500 small business licenses authorizing the continued operation, or the new establishment, of shops and restaurants, which benefits many working people. In 1980, 154,700 artisans were working in cooperative craft enterprises, and 112,500 persons worked as private artisans or helpers in family enterprises. That makes altogether 267,200 artisans, 4,200 more than in 1975.

Through the intensification and rationalization of the trading network, the efficiency of trade has increased. The supermarkets have developed into the dominating institution for daily consumer goods supply in the residential areas. Their number has increased by 300 in the past 5 years. Pedestrian zones in the city centers have also proved to be popular shopping and social centers. Through the reconstruction and renovation of 8,300 restaurants and the building of 200 new club restaurants better conditions have been created for high-standard catering. The activities of consumer goods cooperatives have also expanded. They operate at present, for example, 262 shopping centers in the countryside. Altogether, about 35,000 retail sale institutions were modernized, and 154,000 square meters of sales space were newly built within the framework of the housing construction program.

It is of special importance for the social security of the citizens of the socialist GDR that even under the changed conditions on the foreign markets our party has continued the policy of stable retail prices for basic goods. The stable prices of these goods, which include more than four-fifths of the total commodities on the market, are supported by subsidies. Western mass media, which find fault with our entire economic and social policy, criticize these subsidies, asserting that only the "free play of supply and demand" could lead to proper prices and a healthy economy. That is, of course, a fairytale.

They say nothing about the subsidies in capitalism. In the EC countries, gigantic amounts flow every year into research funds for armament, into subsidies for bituminous coal mining, shipbuilding, aircraft construction, and for restoring the financial soundness of various big companies. In capitalism, subsidies are used to guarantee the profit of the multinational companies. We, on the other hand, subsidize stable prices for goods, rents and fares, which benefit the people. That is the difference. (prolonged, strong applause)

More and more importance is acquired by the social funds for improving the material and intellectual-cultural living conditions. From 1976 to 1980 the tremendous amount of M234.2 billion was spent on these worthy causes. Of this amount we allotted M28.9 billion for housing construction, M44 billion for public education, M15.2 billion for public health, mother-and-child care and care for senior citizens, M60.8 billion for social insurance to meet the working people's claims to old-age pensions, sick benefits and other benefits, and M10.8 billion for recreation facilities. Finally, we financed out of these funds the subsidies for the stable prices of basic goods, rents and services.

While the total expenditures for the social funds in 1975 were still only M37.1 billion, they reached in 1980 the volume of M52.7 billion; that is, M15.6 billion more. Taking into consideration the free services provided by the state and enterprises, the average per capita income of the population went up from M7,680 in 1975 to M9,500 in 1980.

Dear comrades, truly living proof of the friendly attitude toward children prevailing in our country, of the success of our family policy that promotes this good climate, is the constantly mounting birth rate. Over 245,000 girls and boys were born in 1980, 63,300 more than 5 years ago. Quite a few sociopolitical measures must be mentioned in this context.

Thus, the workweek for full time working mothers with 2 children was reduced in 1977 to 40 hours without any loss in pay. The new leave regulations introduced in 1979 brought working mothers further advantages.

About 1 million mothers benefited from the again extended pregnancy and postnatal leave which now amounts to 26 weeks on full pay. Some 370,000 mothers who gave birth to a second or further child have so far taken advantage of the baby year. Between 1970 and 1980, infant mortality declined from 18.5 to 12.1 per 1,000 live-born babies. In the same period, mother mortality declined from 4.3 to 2.3 per 10,000 births. Thus the GDR is among the most advanced countries in the world.

Over 120,000 senior citizens spend the declining years of their life in the security of the old-age and nursing homes. After the ninth party congress, other senior citizens have moved into various types of accomodation that are suitable for elderly people, meet their needs and are conducive to their well-being. Senior citizens are experiencing more and more comprehensive care and attention on the part of the trade unions, people's solidarity and other social organizations, enterprises and house communities, in cooperation with the families. This is in line with the respect for the veterans of work in our socialist society.

All in all, the road that has been traveled has impressively proved that industrious work is worthwhile--to the benefit of the whole people as well as of each individual. And this will remain so in future, too. (prolonged, strong applause)

III. Firm Course Toward Further Implementing the Main Task in the 1980's. The Unity of Economic and Social Policy Determines Our Actions

1. Our Economic Strategy For Developing the National Economy and the Tasks To Improve the Working and Living Conditions of the People

Dear comrades, the SED's social policy centers on our economy, on our people's great effort to achieve an increase in economic performance. It is primarily here that the decisions are made on the further advances in shaping developed socialism. At the same time, the favorable development in other social sectors increasingly affects the tempo of the growth of production. The demands made on our economy are tangibly increasing. However, we can cope with them, because our strength has also grown, as has our ability to keep pace with the stormy development of the productive forces in our times.

The Central Committee therefore proposes to the 10th SED Congress to continue the policy of the main task also in the 1980's. (prolonged, strong applause) We firmly adhere to our tested course aimed at raising the material and cultural living standard of the people on the basis of a high development rate of socialist production, an increase in effectiveness, scientific-technical progress and the growth of labor productivity.

For as long as a decade, our people's experience has confirmed that on that path we are successfully utilizing the strong motive forces of the socialist system. We are further pursuing our course with high continuity. In view of the changed conditions, however, it is precisely that which demands a new quality of work.

The implementation of the decisions of the ninth party congress has already gone hand in hand in many respects with preparations for higher requirements. More far-reaching tasks were tackled in order to solve such fundamental questions of the performance increase as the development of microelectronics and robot technology. Progress has been achieved in important refining processes in coal processing, metallurgy, chemistry, and the glass and ceramics industry. In the building sector a start has been made to significantly increase effectiveness. The hitherto obtained results can be described as a skeleton outlining what now has to be accomplished. This will now determine the entire further development of the national economy in its key points.

To win economic effectiveness through modern science is more and more becoming the predominant viewpoint.

Our people have great traditions in scientific-technical creativity. We must foster them with the greatest care. In socialism, science and technology are no longer objects of exploitation or of misuse for profitmaking purposes. The scientific-technological achievements, too, always fully benefit the people. Scientific-technological advances more and more deeply influence the everyday life of people in our country and their working and living conditions. They determine to a large extent our socialist country's rank in the world. This good cause all the more merits a wholehearted personal engagement. We especially need the energy of our youth to a still greater degree for this difficult and challenging field of creative work.

Our economic strategy of the 1980's embraces 10 key points:

1--It is necessary to make a new step in combining the advantages of socialism with the accomplishments of the scientific-technical revolution. Our party program describes the solving of this great task as the decisive condition for shaping the material-technical basis of our developed socialist society. Now the possibilities of the scientific-technical revolution have directly become the main reserve for our national economy's growth in performance and efficiency. What is necessary is to fully exploit this reserve, and to obtain a maximum increase in economic strength from the latest scientific findings.

Focused on this aim, we utilize and develop the substantial intellectual and material potential of the GDR. The constantly closer intertwining of the national economies of the GDR and the USSR, and cooperation in CEMA provide most favorable prerequisites for such far-reaching advances to a higher level of productive forces.

The GDR's development as a modern socialist industrialized country is more and more marked by this qualitative process of scientific-technical progress. On a new section of its path our country, too, proves how socialism can master the tremendous new productive forces to the people's benefit. What matters is to develop them in such a way that we can successfully continue our economic and social policy even under the changed foreign trade conditions, and in the face of the exacerbated international class confrontation.

It is a very demanding goal to keep abreast of the worldwide scientific-technical revolution and even gain ground at the same time. Its speed is increasing. At the same time, it is getting broader and broader. While in the past the scientific-technical revolution was confined to a few branches of production, it hardly leaves out any branch nowadays, and permeates a country's entire economy. How we succeed in utilizing the new productive forces within the framework of the entire national economy--that is what will ultimately be decisive for the gain in effectness. New tasks are taking shape here. They require a still closer linkage of science and production and an appropriate adjustment of the production profile.

Thus science and technology must ensure the necessary lead for the future's intensively expanded reproduction. The following development lines are in the foreground for our country:

--New basic technologies for the highest-integrated circuits of microelectronics, as well as optoelectronic components for the application of light-conductor and laser technology;

--Flexible automation systems using third-generation robots and fully integrated measuring and control technology;

--Highly productive processes for the better utilization of oil, natural gas and brown coal as raw materials, for the industrial utilization of microbiological substances and biotechnological processes, as well as for the development of new, highly refined chemical products in the form of special plastics and high-purity chemicals.

--New energy-saving processes for obtaining a maximum of valuable materials from raw materials, processes for the recovery of metallic and chemical basic substances from secondary raw materials and the establishment of closed material cycles;

--Development of nuclear energy, production and storage of hydrogen and biogas as energy resources, new and more effective energy transformation processes and development of new electrochemical primary and secondary power sources.

The long-term steady economic growth in the GDR can be borne only by accelerating the scientific-technical progress. This requires still greater creative results of our research and development. On the other hand, existing scientific findings must be utilized more quickly and on a much broader scale. All efforts must be concentrated on new products and processes, from which profound economic effects will originate. To achieve genuine top achievements here means to pave the way for effective production for a long time to come.

The standards are unalterably set by the international level. Research must aim at what this level requires, when its results are introduced into production. Our best experiences in this field all have one thing in common: They directly lead to productive solutions of the highest quality.

Science has grown into a new role and responsibility. Its interlinking with social life, especially with our economy, has reached a qualitatively higher level. Today and in the future any serious and far-reaching progress in the development of modern productive forces will be rooted in scientific findings. Therefore, social and economic advantages must be the centerpiece of scientific tasks. The key to an essential improvement of economic effectiveness lies in a considerably higher economic effect of science and technology.

We can rely on the fact that the main lines of the qualitative development of our economy, which our party has developed in the past few years, have deeply permeated people's thoughts and actions. They increasingly characterize the joint work of workers and cooperative peasants, scientists and engineers, and determine the direction of thrust in their competitions. It becomes clearer and clearer that socialism is able to effectively link scientific-technological progress with mass initiative, and that is a highly positive aspect.

2--Our economic strategy for the 1980's aims at considerably increasing labor productivity. What matters is to reach an essentially higher productivity level on a large scale. In decisive phases we will multiply productivity by rationalization. Through saving jobs, it must be possible to have working people available for other activities.

Work is the source of social wealth. Our party has always regarded the increase of labor efficiency as the most important aspect whenever new tasks had to be tackled. And this is also the case now. In 1970, 23 working hours were needed to produce M1,000 worth of industrial goods. In 1980, it was only 14 hours, and at the end of this 5-year plan it will be merely 12 hours.

The rapid progress of science and its technological applicability must be reflected in the increase of labor productivity. To this end we are improving the social combination of the production process, and employ more and more effective means of production. Each combine and each enterprise is faced with the necessity of fully utilizing the initiative of the workers, engineers and researchers for this aim. To improve the rhythm of work and strengthen work discipline are prime concerns of economic management, political education and economic stimulation in accordance with the performance principle.

We take into consideration that in the past decade 1 hour of working time has considerably gained in importance, and that it is also characterized by a higher quality of work. [paragraph continues]

Remember that 10 years ago 23 percent of all working people had a 10th or 12th grade general polytechnic secondary school education. Now the number has increased to 47 percent. Similar growth rates were observed regarding employees with skilled worker's training, with a master's qualification or with advanced or technical school education. One great task of the 1980's is to fully utilize this considerable level of education for the economy. Thus it is not only an increase in production per working hour that matters, but also a higher increase in value due to a constantly growing labor quality.

Only well-planned collaboration of combines and enterprises, of the institutions of science and education will produce results of real economic importance.

3--Our economic strategy for the 1980's aims at still essentially better utilizing raw materials and fuels for the economy. At the same time, this strategy requires more effective work with the basic assets.

The quantities of energy and raw materials available to our country will remain at the same level or increase only insignificantly. We have to take these facts into account, indeed for a very long time to come. We are very consistently increasing our domestic raw material and fuel production, including secondary raw materials. However, that will not be sufficient to guarantee a high economic growth unless at the same time material and energy savings are decisively intensified in all fields. That is the main point.

From each kilogram of raw material, as many high-quality products as possible must be manufactured by high-quality work. Thus we will reach a higher step of refinement for the production of our national economy. This necessity applies to every kind of raw material we use, to every phase and every branch of production.

Everyone has contributed to that end--basic research as well as technology and industrial processing engineering, construction and design. Basic and advanced education of the working people and a comprehensive organization of production in accordance with the strictest quality standards are directed at the same time.

From this viewpoint, essential changes in the production structure of the economy become necessary. Oil and brown coal must be more thoroughly used as raw materials. Priority is to be given to developing and producing highly refined plastics and special steels of the third and fourth processing stage, for which there is a wide range of uses. Our processing industry needs such refined materials, which better meet the users' requirements, from the chemical industry, metallurgy and the glass and ceramics industries, in order to achieve in finished products the quality improvements necessary to reach international top-level standards.

This development must be reflected in the structure of foreign trade. The GDR is currently achieving its best export proceeds with quality products of preliminary production stages. In comparison, there is a low profitability of products with a higher degree of labor input, when their scientific-technical level is lagging behind. Such losses must not be accepted. The effectiveness of our national economy makes it imperative to defeat the international competitors precisely with the highly refined products, in order to secure a good profit. The production of merchandise promising favorable foreign currency proceeds and good sales prospects must be purposefully promoted. The world market also confronts us with new questions having a considerable impact on the cost-result ratio. Thanks to the combines' flexible work, we are now capable of providing better answers to those questions.

A high degree of production refinement is a great national economic program. The prerequisites for it have been created in our country in the past years. We must not lose time in implementing it throughout our economy. This corresponds to the conditions of the GDR, which is a highly advanced industrial country that has at its disposal relatively scarce raw material resources and whose important strength lies in its highly qualified population, experienced in modern socialist production.

Making more, substantially more, of what we have at our disposal, also applies to the M717 billion worth of the national economy's basic assets. This decisive portion of our national wealth must be handled intelligently. Good labor organization and labor utilization must be reflected in the production of M368 of national income per M1,000 of basic assets by 1985, instead of the M350 achieved last year.

4--The struggle for high quality in products will hold a prominent place in our economic strategy of the eighties. What we are interested in are not isolated cases but national economic improvements. Good quality labor requires that we base the development of new products immediately on the most advanced scientific-technical results. Exacting performance parameters must be accompanied by reliability and durable service. Last but not least, quality should also be manifested in an esthetic form that should endure for a relatively long period of time. All this depends on establishing good prerequisites in all preliminary production stages for the best possible quality of a broad range of final products. Efficient manufacturing is essential; it must be organized according to exacting quality parameters. This is the only way of making high quality the rule, the normal standard that can be expected everywhere. Efforts aimed at effectiveness also yield the best results when they are linked with the struggle for the best possible quality. Top quality is the result of conscientious, good work at every place--from research down to production and services. In the years to come "good quality work from the GDR" must become the universally recognized trademark of our efficiency.

5--Our party's economic strategy for the eighties will concentrate on decisively raising the effectiveness of work, making use in that process of the latest accomplishments of science and technology.

This will entail many individual steps but what is involved here is, in essence, the aggregate of our national economy. What must be achieved is a steadily improving ratio between the outlays for basic assets, raw and other materials and human labor and the result, our national income. Special attention must be devoted to the growth of our national income because it is the only resource that can be used to satisfy the growing, additional social requirements and needs. A higher national income growth does not result just from the growth rates of production but, increasingly, from a reduction of production costs. To achieve better effectiveness we need short deadlines and a comprehensive procedure. This places considerable demands on the art of management.

Savings of working hours must not be accrued at the expense of greater capital costs and economical use of materials must not be achieved at the expense of quality. It is not enough to do either one or the other. Conservation of human labor and materials, better utilization of the existing basic assets and investments--only everything together will yield the profit we need. We are always concerned with the ratio between the total national economic result and the total cost of resources. In the future greater effectiveness will account, largely, for production growth. This means that production must be growing at a faster rate than the consumption of materialized and human labor.

6--Our economic strategy for the eighties is aimed at a comprehensive socialist rationalization. It has a broad scope, from the organizational improvements of [work] processes and modernization of existing technology down to the renewal of production processes on a high scientific level. It must comprise a favorable organization of the workplace as well as the systematic application of microelectronics. In this decade socialist rationalization will be increasingly closely connected with automation. It helps prepare the transition to automation technologically and organizationally. But it has also contributed with the existing technology to the acquisition of extensive resources, resources which are needed for any automation on a large scale.

Our rationalization steps serve diverse objectives that are closely connected with each other.

They are designed to conserve working hours, to raise the quality of work and to improve conditions for the working people. Activities that are damaging to one's health, physically exacting and monotonous must be overcome even more resolutely. Rationalization requires, to a particularly high degree, flexibility and short deadlines. Labor productivity must be palpably raised in just a year or two, without any great construction expenditures.

The intellectual foundation of rationalization has been expanded. It will make use of the results of basic research as well as of the ideas of innovators and inventors, the work of which is best promoted by implementing their suggestions. The scientific-technical foundations of rationalization must be considerably expanded through one's own production of means of rationalization. Such efforts should by supported through the centralized production of important elements.

Socialist rationalization helps increasingly to raise the level of technological processes fundamentally. It is the primary way of introducing science into socialist production on a larger scale. The change must be achieved, primarily, through broader application of microelectronics in production, automatic control of processes and the introduction of industrial robots. In order to secure a steep rise in labor productivity, it is necessary to increase the originally envisaged number of industrial robots to be introduced in the 5-year planning period from about 9,000 to 40,000-45,000.

This forces us to ponder the entire technological process anew and to substantiate it scientifically. All that represents a great challenge to the creative capacities of scientists, designers, and technology and technical experts and the skill and abilities of our highly qualified skilled workers and, in particular, a challenge to our youth.

The steps in science and technology must contribute, in their entirety, to saving a total of 2.854 trillion working hours over the 1981-85 5-year period. That would correspond to the annual working time of more than 300,000 employees during this 5-year plan. Between 1976 and 1980 we managed to save a total of 1.664 trillion hours in this way, which was the annual working time of 180,000 working people. The share of socialist rationalization in utilizing that untapped potential, especially in releasing manpower for new tasks, will increase further.

7--Our economic strategy for the eighties also sets new standards for the investment policy. Investments must become the engine propelling scientific-technical progress. In the interest of intensifying production, we therefore concentrate resources on socialist rationalization. The speedy application of valuable scientific-technical discoveries is coming increasingly to the fore. It is essential, in the first place, to implement advanced technologies that conserve working hours and materials and significantly increase the effectiveness of entire economic sectors. Microelectronics, which gives momentum to a profound and broad rationalization, is a case in point.

Before the 10th party congress, we began to assess our investment plans from two decisive viewpoints. The first concerns applying the most modern technology in connection with the introduction of industrial robots and the second is the contribution to the refinement of raw materials. We need no investments for preserving the existing level of production forces. On the contrary, investments must open the way to higher productivity and effectiveness in the future. That is why emphasis is being placed on technological progress connected with investments, progress ensuring the highest possible economy. This strict criterion applies to all work.

In the coming 5-year plan investments must serve to save workplaces rather than create new ones. That sets the standards for individual projects but it goes far beyond that. The total sum of all investments must yield, on the aggregate, a reduction of workplaces but it must not create additional requirements.

There is yet another thing deserving attention. The consequences of past demographical processes will be that the number of newly trained skilled workers will be significantly reduced in the future. Workers must be set free who then must take on new tasks.

But that also means undertaking fewer expansive investments, fewer new projects in new fields and to discard obsolete technology at a faster rate. That is the only way of achieving the goal by 1985 of using important production equipment 16 to 17 hours a day, which would exceed the current utilization rate by 1 to 2 hours. It is imperative to expand multishift operation at highly productive facilities.

The investments will be evaluated according to their national economic effectiveness. In the past 5-year plan each M1,000 of investmenets yielded additional M630 worth of produced goods. In the coming 5-year plan it should be at least M755, which is 20 percent more. Investment expenditures must be reduced in this sense, especially the ratio of construction projects. We need shorter periods of time between planning the project and putting it into operation. With the exception of some large-scale projects in the area of the raw material industry, a period of 2 years should become the social norm. Our seventh construction conference worked out in detail the requirements for high effectiveness. All of that is still valid.

8--Our economic strategy for the eighties postulates the production of substantially more and better consumer products. Our consumer goods industry must develop on the basis of raw materials that we ourselves produce or that we are able to obtain from socialist countries. Scientific-technical progress should also be immediately manifested in consumer goods. Microelectronics helps to make technical consumer goods more reliable and their manipulation easier and reduces their energy consumption. The good design of consumer goods also requires far greater attention.

The population generally expects a constantly improving quality of merchandise. Modern production technology, tradition and artisanship ought to be combined more effectively to meet those demands. The development of consumer goods production deserves even more commitment, more ideas, more enthusiasm for a good solution and greater attentiveness to details. The progress people wish will then be absolutely feasible.

The production of consumer goods is a matter concerning the entire national economy. It is asserting its requirements even at places which mostly manufacture means of production. Those combines and plants bear great responsibility for producing high-performance equipment and for deliveries for the producers of consumer goods, but not just for that. It is their task to expand the range of high quality technical consumer goods, proceeding from their specific production conditions.

9--In our economic strategy for the eighties, a high dynamic of social production is accompanied by a high dynamic of national income. This strategy is based on production growth and promotes it. Stagnation or even a decline in the economy, which is becoming widespread in the capitalist countries, is incompatible with the requirements of socialism. Our system is developing forward. The material needs of society and individuals are thus growing. But if we want to distribute more, we must first produce more.

Our attitude toward the growth of social production is not characterized by disregard for the objective changes in its prerequisites. However, the problem cannot be solved by disregarding the rates of growth. In keeping with our concept, these rates must instead be achieved more consistently, with the aid of qualitative growth factors.

10--Our economic strategy for the eighties is definitely based on intensively expanded reproduction. This task follows from the internal necessities of our country.

The advanced socialist society, and above all its material-technical base, are inseparable from the intensive path toward higher economic performance. This path must affect the economic processes so that the material-technical base can increasingly attain the required new quality.

In addition to that, the prices for vitally necessary raw materials have been rising fast since the beginning of the seventies. This was particularly striking in the case of crude oil. We cannot appreciate highly enough the fact that we are to pay the Soviet Union, our main supplier, prices which are 50 percent below the prices on the world capitalist market. This is a great international assistance to the GDR. (prolonged, strong applause) Nevertheless we naturally do not remain unaffected by the international price increase. At the same time the prices in the extraction of domestic brown coal are substantially rising. Compared with the 1976-80 period, we will have to invest twice as much per ton of brown coal in the eighties. We must also take other developments into account. The production sphere must practically do without increases in manpower. For this reason alone labor productivity must be increased more speedily on the national economic scale than production. The international situation is not without influence on our economic conditions either. The protection of the achievements of socialism demands higher defense expenditures in the face of intensified imperialist armament.

All this is reason enough for us to proceed more resolutely in further intensifying production, and not to exclude from it any sphere whatsoever. Socialist intensification is increasingly becoming the decisive feature of our planned economy. Management, planning and incentives, every step in shaping production conditions, every planned action of the combines, plants and cooperatives must be in keeping with this main trend of our economic growth, just as the further development of our territories should also be in keeping with this principle. Only such consistency can ensure the further successful solution of our main task, both at present and in the future. One is inseparable from the other.

To sum up, this means that production must be developed quantitatively and qualitatively. Its efficiency must be raised, the quality of work must be comprehensively improved and the pace of mastering all such matters must be stepped up.

Comrades, the 10th congress has been given the "Directive of the 10th SED Congress on the 5-Year Plan for Developing the GDR's National Economy in the Years 1981-1985" for approval. The directive is aimed at continuing our course whose main task consists of ensuring the unity of economic and social policy. It is based on our strategy for developing the national economy. It contains all that we should achieve in the period 1981-85. Thus the directive contains very essential steps for realizing our party program. The further shaping of the advanced socialist society in the GDR is presented in the directive in the form of tasks and targets that are comprehensivle to everybody. This applies both to national economy and to the development of sciences, of education, medical care, culture and other social spheres. It consistently lists further steps in our socio-political progress in this respect. It lays down secure prospects for the entire society and for every citizen. A clear-cut orientation is formulated for the uniform activity of us all.

The Central Committee proposes to the 10th party congress to conduct a broad public discussion about the directive on the development of the GDR's national economy after its approval. The discussion results will be incorporated in the elaboration of the tasks for the 5-year plan 1981-85.

The directive envisages the national income produced in 1985 to increase 128-130 percent, compared with 1980. In the years 1981-85 it must amount to a total of more than M1 trillion. Industrial goods production in the national economy should increase 128-130 percent in the same period, so that--for the entire 5-year period--the production volume must amount to at least M1.9 billion in 1985.

In agriculture, the total yields of plant production should increase 106.9-108.1 percent, compared with the average results in the period 1976-80. By 1985 the state procurement of slaughter animals is to increase to 2.40 million-2.42 million tons. Milk production will be raised to 6.93 million-6.95 million tons.

Production in construction work in the national economy must be stepped up 118-120 percent during the period 1980-85. The performance in transportation must increase 111-112 percent in freight transportation, and 101-102 percent in passenger transportation. Investments in the national economy during these 5 years must total M268-M272 billion, and the means should be most efficiently invested. Foreign trade turnover should rise to 136 percent by 1985.

We are realizing our social policy in harmony with the economic results. Thus our long-term program in housing construction will proceed at a faster rate in the 1981-85 period. A total of 930,000 to 950,000 apartments must be built, either in new buildings or by modernizing old ones. This should improve housing conditions for another 2.8 million citizens, with the added advantage of low, stable rents. The population's net monetary incomes are to rise 120-122 percent. The commodity fund for supplies to the population will grow to the same extent, to allow a 120-122-percent growth of retail trade turnover.

From 1981-85 the social funds financed by state means are to increase to approximately M295 billion. These large amounts will serve the housing economy, the maintenance of stable rents and stable consumer prices for basic commodities, as well as low tariffs. They will be used to satisfy the population's increasing needs for medical care and their needs in the social and intellectual-cultural sphere. In 1985 this will correspond to a 126-percent increase, compared with 1980. In the period 1981-85 the population's per-capita real income is to increase 121-123 percent.

The GDR's capital is to be further developed according to plan, as the political, economic and intellectual-cultural center of the GDR.

All this is based on a well-balanced ratio of performance versus consumption, of accumulation versus consumption. We develop production on a higher level in a continuous and proportionate manner, in the interests of the economic stability of our country and of the welfare of its citizens. (prolonged loud applause)

2. The Tasks To Raise the National Economy Outputs on the Path to Greater Efficiency and Better Quality of Work in Industry, Building Industry, Transportation, Communications and in Trade

Dear comrades, The increased output of the GDR's national economy will continue to be based to a great extent on the dynamics of the country's socialist industry. With an annual per capita production of M22,500, the GDR is one of the most industrialized countries in the world. On the basis of its structure, our industry is on the whole prepared to attain the considerable growth expected on the basis of scientific-technical progress. The industrial branches that are most important for processing raw materials and producing highly efficient equipment and a broad range of consumer goods already exist.

In brief, on the basis of stable socialist production conditions, modern socialist management and highly qualified workers, engineers and researchers, there is every prerequisite for making not just quantitative progress in the period 1981-85. It will also be possible to achieve a most palpable jump in performance in the direction of higher productivity, effectiveness and quality in industry, in the way envisaged by our national economy strategy.

Developing a strong energy and raw material basis and comprehensively utilizing our domestic raw materials are the basic prerequisite for continuous and stable economic development. This is particularly valid for brown coal, the extraction of which will increase to 285-290 million tons by 1985.

On a long-range basis it is at the same time necessary to ensure the increase in primary energy through nuclear energy.

The utilization of domestic brown coal resources goes hand in hand with certain basic changes in the use of energy resources in general. To an unprecedented extent the entire national economy must orient itself toward directly using unprocessed brown coal. The rational use of energy is increasingly becoming important. In fact, we are confronted by the task to ensure a dynamic economic growth in the next 5 years with an annual increase in primary energy of less than 1 percent. This requires energy savings amounting to the equal of 160 million tons of brown coal by 1985.

Refining our brown coal as a raw material is of essential significance in developing our chemical industry. Even today carbo-chemical products are being produced on a brown-coal basis as a volume equivalent to approximately 7 million tons of crude oil. Even today about one-quarter of the organic raw materials used in chemistry come from brown coal. Extensive measures are envisaged so as to achieve, by 1990, a level of essential refining of brown coal which would correspond to the effect of 11 million tons of crude oil. In this entire period the overwhelming part of the increased brown coal extraction should be used for that purpose. The GDR's carbo-chemistry will be restructed and rebuilt on a new technological foundation.

With the aid of brown coal we are also considerably expanding the raw-material base of our chemical industry. At the same time it is a decisive task to use even more effective methods in deep-cracking the crude oil delivered to us by the USSR at the amount equal to the 1980 level, that is 19 million tons. From this it follows that we must achieve a palpable change in the production structure of our chemical industry. The production of so-called small-scale non-bulk chemical goods, pharmaceutics, date registering materials and consumer goods must be increased above the average.

The chemical industry will retain its present quantitative growth; however, at the same time it is necessary to achieve new qualitative progress toward higher refining. This path of qualitative progress must generally become the foundation of the GDR's raw-material economy. This applies to the use of potash deposits, of which there are sufficient amounts in the GDR, and the total exploitation of all components of valuable matter contained in the deposits of potash, rock-salt and spar. We are most interested in more than doubling in 1985 the volume of granular potash fertilizer that can be sold on the world market as compared with the level achieved in 1980.

In manufacturing other solid mineral raw materials it will be mandatory to considerably increase our contribution to ensuring our own supply by using locally available raw materials, thus relieving our national economy of the burden of having to import goods at high costs. All this must be achieved by putting into operation new and highly efficient raw-material production and processing capacities.

To attain this the geological prospecting and exploration of the GDR's state territory must be continued in a purposeful manner. The future development of our metallurgy will demonstrate with particular clarity the transition to highly processed production. The overall volume of rolled steel production will, of course, continue to grow, but the growth of the production of highly refined rolled steel will be even more spectacular. In 1980 that production amounted to 4.33 million tons and in 1985 it must reach 7.385 million tons. At that time the highly finished products will account for 80 percent of all the end products of our ferrous metallurgy.

Thus the process of attaining highly processed production constitutes the foundation for fulfilling our concrete tasks in various sectors, which is in keeping with our economic strategy.

The process begins in the branches of the raw material economy, increasingly determines the economy's character, and ends in the sector of the finishing and processing industry. In this area--in the production of high-quality machines, equipment and instruments designed for export and for promoting the rationalization of our own national economy--development is more and more influenced by the progress achieved in microelectronics.

By 1985, we must cover the overwhelming part of the national economy's needs for microprocessors from our own resources and produce the semifinished materials from them and the equipment for essential technological processes ourselves. At the same time, we have to reach the international peak in selected spheres and improve the quality of products and of applied technologies to a new, higher level. A higher degree of integrating construction elements must mark that trend. The pace as well as the national economic large-scale effect of microelectronic production must be markedly stepped up.

In electrical engineering and in electronics itself we will employ microelectronics in order to bring about far-reaching generation changes in important products. This applies to computer technology, automation and control technologies, to scientific apparatus construction as well as to the corresponding consumer goods. Internationally, the GDR machine-tool industry holds a noteworthy position. Defending it and expanding it requires us to unremittingly increase the ratio of machines equipped with microelectronics to more than 50 percent of the overall range by the end of the 5-year plan. At the same time we will preferentially increase the production of processing centers with the aid of industrial robots and integrated processing stages and machine systems.

This primarily qualitative development of the structure of production, determined by microelectronics--aimed at higher productivity, at complete solutions for entire technological processes, at better economizing of materials, at longer service life and better quality--applies to all sectors of the metal-processing industry: to shipbuilding, to industries manufacturing agricultural and textile machines--and one could go on and on. It also applies to the deliveries which decisively influence the standard of final products.

In 1985, the annual goods consumption of a family of four in the GDR will amount to M17,700 on the average. And more than half of that sum will be spent on industrial products. This need has to be taken into account. The population expects from the metal-processing industry more refrigerators, bicycles, light motorcycles, gas-and electrical stoves, home tool sets, certain other tools, and other products in demand.

Or let us take the broad range of electronic, photo-optical and electrical-industrial products. Prerequisites should be created for increasing the supply of color television sets 160-167 percent in 5 years.

The increasing role of leisure time requires us to give priority to producing high fidelity equipment, tape recorders, videorecorders, electronic single reflex cameras, 8mm movie equipment and small electric typewriters.

In the chemical industry it is also not just any sort of consumer goods that are involved. We should broaden the range of high-quality detergents and laundry additives, of floor coverings and paints. There is a demand for good quality cosmetics. Increasing the production of tires for passenger cars is an important task.

The textile and ready-to-wear industries, the furniture, glass and ceramics industries offer a broad field for developing new high-quality products. In this sphere good design and fashionability can greatly influence the demand for goods and contribute to their giving pleasure to people.

Comrades!

Significant requirements are placed on the construction industry. Many important social needs are concentrated in this point. The strengthening of our economy requires an increase in the performance of the centrally controlled industrial construction combines by 27-28 percent by 1985 and at the same time a rapid increase in the share of reconstruction and rationalization measures. The construction times of industrial and scientific projects must be reduced 30-50 percent in the next 5 years. Concentrated construction in a sequence determined by the needs of the national economy shows the road to fulfilling that requirement.

At the same time, the housing construction program will be carried out in such a way as to permit the unconditional fulfillment of the set targets with the invested resources, satisfying as fully as possible the housing needs of citizens. New construction, modernization and maintenance will become an ever firmer entity in the process. Housing construction in the capital, Berlin, in the districts of Leipzig, Dresden, Halle and Karl Marx-Stadt, will increase above the average. Thus the GDR's housing construction combines, as well as the regionally-controlled construction enterprises whose performance and effectiveness must also increase considerably, carry a considerable responsibility, too. It includes repairs of housing, to which the construction trade continues to contribute greatly. At the same time, the construction sector resolves important tasks in exporting services and materials.

The seventh construction conference determined that it is important for the entire construction activity to be tuned up for highest effectiveness and quality. With every planned project, the best ratio between input and result is the highest order. By 1985, construction costs will be reduced 15 percent without affecting economic and social goals. At the same time, the quality of work must be improved. The construction people will keep in mind the important national-economic requirement to reduce energy consumption 40 percent in heating new and renovated buildings. Energy-efficient construction is paramount. All in all, the construction sector faces the task of increasing labor productivity in the most important crafts and trades by 6-7 percent annually, and reducing more than heretofore the expenses for materials, energy and transportation.

Strictest economy in using construction materials has been planned as a prerequisite to materially securing building production. As to the building materials industry, it will mainly increase its performance by introducing stricter rationalization and in doing so the locally available potential will be utilized to a larger degree.

Undoubtedly expansion building will continue to be necessary. However, the main stress will be put on more intensively using the existing premises, maintaining them better and rebuilding and modernizing them. Regardless of what economic point of view we adopt, this manner of proceeding will always prove to be absolutely mandatory. In this connection let us remember the great importance of maintaining and preserving the old building areas in cities. In most cases these areas are located close to the center and they strongly influence the general picture of the city and its ability to function properly.

Everywhere we need high quality in-town development and architecture enabling low-cost building and utilizing.

Approximately 30 percent of our country's building potential is accounted for by the sector under kreis jurisdiction. It is easy to assess how much in this field depends upon utilization of reserves, especially regarding conserving on valuable building materials. The kreis and city councils should use their influence to speed up things in this sector.

All our experience in this respect indicates that the early phases of investment preparation are decisive for the effectiveness of the building sector. Project planners and orderers, and local state power organs--they all have their responsibilities, which have been worked out in detail at the seventh construction conference.

Let us stress once more the necessity of working more than ever with the help of research initiative, competition and comparisons of different project plans in order to promote creative competition and achieve the best results.

Objectively speaking, the structure of the building tasks is thoroughly changing. Reconstruction, modernization and maintainance are rapidly becoming more important. Under such circumstances it is necessary to ensure a dynamic growth of the building sector. Industrialization on a high scientific-technical level must be pursued and all those involved in this task must take it into consideration and conform to the task. In addition to this, the increase in labor productivity will continue to be most closely linked to improving the working and living conditions of the construction workers. Particular care must be devoted to those collectives that are engaged in the crucial areas of the building sector and sometimes work under difficult conditions.

Reducing costs in the transportation processes is also logically integrated in our economic activities. This concerns the transportation sector itself, but also the industrial sector, agriculture, forestry, and food industry, trade and all other spheres. All freight transportation must proceed with greater effectiveness, using the shortest distances and consuming less fuel and energy. We need efficient transportation, turnover and storage processes. By 1985, 700-750 kilometers of railroad lines are envisaged to be electrified. At least 10 million tons of freight must be shifted from road to railroad or water transportation. We cannot fail to take advantage of this opportunity to conserve our energy supplies. By the same token, it is also necessary to rationalize road freight transportation. At the same time the transportation sector will be able to accomplish its tasks, which involve great responsibility, by exercising high work efficiency, accuracy and reliability in the sector of providing transportation for commuting workers and students.

Dear comrades,

The industrial sector on a local and bezirk scale also has great tasks to accomplish, because its share in the total industrial production of goods represents approximately 16 percent. In addition, 86,500 artisan enterprises are active. All this represents an important complement to large scale industrial production, in particular regarding the supply of the population with a large amount of daily-live consumer goods--the so-called 1,000 little things--and with public services. We are supporting these sectors on a planned basis by material funds, by training young workers and by granting licenses for activities in these branches.

Our party will continue to promote crafts in a purpose-oriented manner. Further proposals are being worked out in order to guarantee a better supply of the crafts enterprises with equipment, rationalization means and raw materials. In this connection it is necessary to take advantage of the tested method of using the services of purchasing and supply cooperatives. The management and planning of crafts should be organized in such a manner as to enable crafts to serve the population as well as possible. This demands the application of simple and expedient methods of planning and management that are in keeping with the specific conditions of this sector.

The socialist trade sector is facing the necessity of handling major flows of goods. The trade sector must constantly offer a great variety of attractive goods corresponding to existing needs. The trade sector must help save the time of the customers and make shopping enjoyable. The need for a pleasant, polite atmosphere must also be mentioned in this connection. To put it briefly, we need a higher cultural standard in the trade sector. This is inseparably linked to the necessity for a more accelerated turnover of goods and a reduction of costs and losses.

Rationalization and intensification are the main methods of increasing effectiveness in this sector. Modern supermarkets, shopping centers, department stores and restaurants must be managed even more efficiently. The differences in standard between these institutions are still too great.

As regards the development of commission trade, of private retail trade and of restaurants we already have efficient regulations tested by practical experience. They should also be applied in the future so as to guarantee even more efficient supplies on a territorial basis.

Wholesale trade must, above all, exert a stronger impact upon the production of goods covering existing needs, upon economically efficient distribution lines and upon higher efficiency in the turnover, transportation and packaging of goods. The process of handling goods from the producer to the consumer must be shortened. The planning, management and organizational organs in the trade sector and in control organs must draw their conclusions from all this. The central state organs must guarantee that the tasks of supply laid down in the economic plan should be strictly implemented and that any change in demand should be followed by prompt decisions. We need fewer centralized detailed regulations; it is much more important for all those involved in this work to be fully aware of their responsibilities for supply and for the respective local councils, as well as all those who are engaged in the production and distribution of goods for the population, to be aware of their responsibilities.

3. Tasks To Increase the National Economic Performance by Means of Higher Effectiveness and Quality of Work in Agriculture, Forestry and the Foodstuff Industry

Dear Comrades,

The reliable supply of the population with foodstuffs will remain the most important task of agriculture and the foodstuff industry during the new 5-year plan period as well. The industrial sector has a constantly increasing share in coping with this task by providing contributions of a high scientific-technical standard. Thus our agricultural development remains a comprehensive national economic task.

Agriculture and forestry account for more than half of our raw material resources. Hence, the tasks of agriculture and forestry also involve great responsibility in this respect. In addition to this, it is a question of increasing domestic supplies of fodder for the animal husbandry sector and of timber by more efficiently utilizing existing supplies. From this point of view, too, the production of such goods assumes added importance as these raw material resources, unlike others, can and must be constantly increased by reproduction. As we know, food supplies play an increasing role in the international class struggle between socialism and imperialism. It is therefore even more necessary to further increase our own production through intensification.

The task of improving the relationship between efforts and results in our socialist agriculture, too, is fully in keeping with the requirements of the national economy. In addition, agricultural potential has increased considerably. The level of basic agricultural supplies increased far more than 180 percent in socialist agriculture in 1980 versus 1970. Especially, the quality and efficiency of machines increased in important respects.

Naturally, a constantly expanding reproduction of basic assets is required. What is available has to be better used. The newly acquired aggregates must reach higher efficiency. The answer here too is intensification. It is decisive now to increase the rate of utilization of agricultural machines by performing proper maintenance and prompt preventive repair work and by securing the necessary spare parts. This contributes to achieving a decrease in production expenditures in the overall national economy. At the same time, we must ensure new machines of good quality and design that guarantee high efficiency, long operating life and reliable performance.

The development of the animal-breeding sector must also be viewed from the viewpoint of the efficiency of the national economy. An increase in our own fodder production is imperative. Everything must be done in this respect.

In that context, we have to increase the fodder supply to a greater extent. This requires both the cultivation of effective fodder plants, and better use of household scraps and other resources. All products suitable for animal feeding must be fully capitalized on and rationally used for both industrial and for traditional and individual animal feeding purposes.

The necessary increase in efficiency in the eighties requires especially larger outputs in the fields and greater achievements in the stables. This presupposes increased labor productivity and a better ratio between efforts and results. Our goal is to harvest 4.32-4.37 tons of grain units per hectare of cultivated land, that is, to increase annual production by 0.02-0.03 tons per hectare. In addition, we must better capitalize on the potential of the land and plants, for which stable cultivation conditions and outputs are required.

Greatest attention must be given to utilizing land. Land cannot be expanded, but its fertility can be increased through quality work and rational use of social means on the basis of modern science and technology. One must not forget that agricultural production depends on the weather. In intensifying our activity, we take account of such variations. That is why increased production is of great importance for improving the ratio between efforts and results.

In this respect, the long-term programs to effectively use the land, which have been worked out in all LPG's, state farms and counties for vegetable production, are of great importance for the planned production increases. The use of agricultural land and forestry areas for other purposes must be limited to the absolutely necessary minimum. The legal norms must be consistently applied in all areas.

We need larger and more stable outputs from all agricultural crops. Seen on the national economic level, grain production and the basic fodder outputs rank first. To provide healthy foodstuffs for the people the planned increases in vegetable and fruit production must be reliably achieved. In the case of potatoes, the progress achieved in past years must be carried further. Sugar beet production, which is not satisfactory at this time, must be increased by all possible means.

There is a growing consumer demand for animal production as well. Therefore, by 1985 2.4 million to 2.42 million tons of slaughterhouse meat, 6.93 million to 6.95 million tons of milk with 4 percent fat content, and up to 4.72 to 4.73 billion eggs are expected to be sold. Greater efficiency per animal, better fodder management, guaranteed livestock and better cooperation between vegetable and animal production is the road to such growth. In future it is necessary to make better use of the potential for vegetable and animal production on the private property of members of cooperatives and of the Union of Small Gardeners, Settlers and Small Livestock Breeders and other producers.

We expect more timber from the forestry sector. At the same time, the existing forestry areas must be constantly expanded. Together with industry, it is necessary to more thoroughly capitalize on wood as a raw material, especially on thin wood [duenholz]. Greater attention must be devoted to forest maintenance and cleanliness, which is a task for all our people.

A great deal depends on turning agricultural raw materials into valuable foodstuffs without any loss. All materials involved in processing operation must be completely used by the national economy. Rationalization and reconstruction will make the most valuable contribution to exploiting reserves and also to gradually improving work conditions in the given enterprises.

The training and advanced training of the working people, mechanization, chemicalization, land melioration, breedings, storage and preservation are the decisive factors for intensification and indicate the basic directions for scientific-technical progress in agriculture, forestry and the food industry.

Along this line, we want to considerably increase in our investments the share of funds for rationalization. Up to now 55 percent were earmarked for construction and 45 percent for equipment. What is now required is to gradually reverse that ratio. This requires appropriate structural decisions in the industry which manufactures means of production. The reproduction of available stocks of equipment must be ensured. In keeping with our potential we also want to make progress in the area of technical equipment for tilling the land, for harvesting, transportation, distribution and for mechanizing animal breeding.

Greater results are yielded by construction investments if they are focused to a greater extent on better organizing livestock quarters, on preservation and storage, on land improvements and on drainage work. Greater attention must be paid to maintenance work, to better work conditions, especially for women cooperative members, and increased productivity will be the reward.

Dear comrades, a number of essential points are clear in this respect. One of them is the planned perfecting of the mechanization of all agrobiological, agrotechnical and agrochemical work. This requires, on the one hand, complex and highly developed machinery for the decisive operations carried out in the fields, stables, in transportation and in storage. On the other hand, we have to close the gaps in the mechanization process, especially in cases where the observance of agrotechnical deadlines is jeopardized or where hard physical work is required. In this respect, greater achievements are required in industry and in our own production of rationalization means in state-owned enterprises, in agricultural and forestry associations and in the foodstuffs industry. Equipment maintenance and repair work must be improved. Alternative energy sources must be used to a greater extent.

We expect agricultural science to make a greater contribution to increasing outputs, to stabilizing them and to cutting back specific costs. Of primary importance is cultivating new plant varieties and improving animal breeds. We should also seek ways and means of better using nature's free productive potential in order to increase biological raw material production. It is increasingly necessary to more conscientiously coordinate scientific-technical work to speed up the application of results in the production process. The economic sciences are increasingly important in this field as well. Therefore, we shall consolidate economic agricultural and business management research and teaching.

Constant attention must be devoted to the progress of education. We need more apprentices, especially for the productive sector and for work in the fields and stables. The position of the forces of production and the production situation, as shown by the fulfillment of the ninth party congress decisions, sets new tasks for training and advanced schooling. This does not apply to business management, agricultural-economic and general economic knowledge alone, but also to certain people working in state bodies, mass organizations and in our party. A greater number of women cooperative members must be given technical training and assigned to work in the technical sectors.

To ensure stable and efficient agricultural production, it is necessary to stop the decrease in the labor force. It is the task of the LPG's and state farms to attract the necessary apprentices, especially in villages, and to promote them after their training. Greater efforts must also be made to induce young people to settle in villages after they have completed their education and military service. A greater number of young people and women should be employed to work in the management of cooperatives and communal general assemblies.

An agricultural price reform is being prepared that will come into force by the end of the current 5-year plan. By introducing new prices for agricultural produce, social expenditures will become more clearly obvious. At the same time, industrial prices will also be applied to agricultural means of production.

The increase in production, the improvement in quality and the reduction of costs will be given economic impetus and conditions for an enlarged reproduction of the LPG's will be more thoroughly ensured. Retail foodstuff prices will not be affected.

We shall properly capitalize on the experience thus gained to improve living conditions in villages on the basis of local resources in order to bring them gradually closer to those in the cities. Along this line, a greater number of dwellings than heretofore should be built or modernized in the country. This is especially useful in those areas where such measures create better preconditions for a higher and increasingly efficient production process and where villages are thus embellished.

As set forth by the SED program, our agrarian policy continues to focus on improving the conditions for socialist production and on strengthening the unity between the workers class and agricultural cooperative members. Thus we focus on better capitalizing on the overall potential of cooperative property and we continue to strengthen the class of cooperative members.

In keeping with the development stage that has been reached on the basis of implementing our party decisions, we propose to work out a new law on agricultural producers cooperatives.

One of the essential features of our agrarian policy is to improve cooperation in the process of gradual transition to industrial production methods. One of the targets of the national economy is to systematically secure the material-technical preconditions for that purpose. Of the greatest importance is the complete utilization of all effectiveness reserves in agriculture itself. Only in this manner can we ensure the enlarged reproduction of cooperative property. In the areas of financial funds, of cooperative principles of distribution and economic regulations, we should continue working on solutions that are in keeping with the intensification of the production process.

Comrades! In the process of national social development we are guided by the fact that more favorable prerequisites to further develop production forces are created through developing socialist production conditions. In the coming years it is necessary to strengthen the crop and animal production LPG's and state farms. This makes it necessary to strengthen the responsibility of the LPG's and to surmount unjustified differences in their achievements. The central point is the development of cooperative democracy through the broad participation of all members--as is envisaged in the model statutes and model management regulations.

The economy of each socialist agricultural enterprise must be organized in such a manner--by taking into consideration its specific conditions--as to attain an efficient and profitable production process including those units in which it has not yet been achieved. Cooperatives characterized by an unsatisfactory level of achievements need special support from state bodies.

The aim of developing the cooperation sector is to improve the mutually advantageous cooperation between LPG's and state farms and their partners. All cooperative forms should be continued. Success depends largely on cooperative councils and their party groups. Therefore we must support them. This applies especially to cooperative councils for crop and animal production, which must ensure effective cooperation within a uniform reproduction process. It is the cooperative members themselves who decide on the cooperative systems they have created. The delegates' meetings have proved to be suitable forms in this respect. That must be taken into consideration at all levels.

To effectively deepen the cooperative system in agricultural producer cooperatives or state farms to which further processing stages are attached, we have to examine the experience gained in agricultural-industrial associations. The LPG and state farm cooperative system, together with processing enterprises and trade, must see that the people's supply of valuable and greatly varied foodstuffs is improved. We expect further progress along this line.

The deepening of cooperation has to always be carried out on the basis of the principles of free choice. It should be carried out gradually and by taking into consideration differences in conditions.

The new tasks require a high level of state management activity in this field as well. Qualification and willingness to make decisions must be coupled with the ability to rely on the advice and initiatives of cooperative farmers and workers. The fact that kreis agricultural councils and the foodstuff industry increasingly live up to their role has a great influence here. According to our party's traditions of discussing basic social and economic development issues in the country with the farmers and other working people, we propose to hold kreis farmers' conferences in the winter period of 1981-82 and a farmers' congress in 1982.

4. To Constantly Utilize the Advantages of the Socialist Planned Economy. The Tasks in Management and Planning of the National Economy

Dear comrades, the GDR socialist planned economy will be further perfected to largely meet the requirements of highly increased economic efficiency and especially those of the comprehensive intensification of production. Thus we give material shape to the advantages of socialism and flexibly adjust to new requirements.

In the spirit of our policy aimed at the peoples' well-being and in keeping with objective economic laws, the management of our national economy is based on the party decisions, the state's laws and on the ensuing binding plan tasks. The 5-year plan, which stipulates the targets that are most important from the viewpoint of the entire society, for the economy as well as for social policy, science and technology, in the fields of education and cultural policies, is increasingly proving its worth as the main instrument of economic management. The 5-year plan and the annual economic plans are to be treated as unified documents whose tasks must always be coordinated in their essential contents.

The inner coherence of the plan is to be ensured by national economic correlated balancing of its parts. With the aid of correlated balancing, the objective requirements of the planned proportional development of the economy are taken into consideration. Thus the balance sheets form the supporting structure of the plan. Balancing has to be effected at every stage of plan drafting and compliance with the balance sheets stipulated by the state is the foundation of plan implementation.

The targets of the 5-year plan must at the same time ensure increasing interlinkage of material production with working and living conditions, including the required territorial measures and other interconnected essential economic factors.

We favor working out the 5-year plan such that it completely allows for these main interlinkages and reflects them. Then it constitutes in every respect the unified document for work in all fields of the national economy. Splitting up into various different programs and partial plans would merely tend to lessen the authority of the 5-year plan and to detract from the joint fundamental goals.

Within this framework every sector, every combine, every enterprise, gets state plan targets which, in a few main index figures, spell out the specific national economic requirements for each of them. We attach special significance to the index figures on "commodity production," "net production" and "basic material costs per M100 worth of commodity production." It is necessary to assess them in their interconnections, because in that way they make it possible to comprehensively judge the performance increases of the combines and enterprises. They make visible to what extent such increases are a result of the combines' and enterprises' own efforts and how they are in keeping with national economic needs.

We will continue to proceed from the premise that the management of the entire GDR economy is the responsibility of the Council of Ministers. Solving tasks connected with that is the main content of its activity.

The Council of Ministers is responsible for drafting the 5-year plans as well as the annual national economic plans and the state budget and--following the adoption by the People's Chamber--for its successful implementation. Within the framework of this whole activity the high quality of the work of the State Planning Commission is very important--we need only think of such matters as the national economic interlinkage and balancing, and the calculating and adjusting of the cost-yield ratio.

In their areas the ministers are primarily responsible for the drafting and implementation of a plan that accords with the national economic requirements. Much depends on whether these essential commitments are fully complied with everywhere. The minister has to solve the basic national economic problems in his area. In particular, he must draw conclusions which result from the development of science and technology for the production structure and which are necessary to meet the requirements of the national economy. It goes without saying that this also includes effectiveness aspects, both for the area of the ministry as a whole and for the combines controlled by it.

The combine has become the fundamental unit for management in industry and in the building, transportation and communications sectors. It has to solve national economic tasks and exactly account for cost and yield. The national economic plan is also being worked out according to combines. Since the combines are directly subordinated to the minister, a two-phase management system has no been asserted throughout our economy.

The dynamic development of the 157 combines, which employ 2.9 million working people, is decisive for the GDR's economic development. Priority must be given to speeding up scientific-technical progress and to most efficiently making use of it. We expect further progress from our best combines. At the same time, we must see to it that all our combines are brought up to the level of the most successful ones. The party and comradely exchange of experience between general managers and party organizers of the combine central committee has already contributed a great deal to this and should be continued.

Development requires the furthering of our combines as a whole. This is not possible without efficient enterprises working as responsible planning and calculating economic units within the combines. At the same time, we must achieve efficient forms of labor division through specialization and cooperation. Each combine must develop its production line, in accordance with its overall economic responsibilities, and must strive to raise the production process to the highest possible level of achievement. The material and cultural potential of combines should provide the best possible prerequisites for intensively enlarged reproduction. These large economic units should be capable of flexibly responding to the requirements of our own national economy and to those of exports and consumer supply.

In order to increase the contribution made by industry managed at the bezirk level--industry which holds a firm place and prospects in our national economy--especially to further improving supplies of consumer goods, we created combines managed at the bezirk level. At the same time, we created prerequisites for effectively improving regional services. The enterprises managed at the bezirk level are legally and economically independent and keep their name.

We proceed from the fact that through creation of combines managed at the bezirk level, quality and efficiency in such enterprises will be considerably improved and new reserves will be opened up for the many varieties of high-quality products manufactured in keeping with the people's requirements.

Bringing about a decisive change in the relationship between expenses and results is the basic national economy requirement in the coming years. This fact must be fully reflected in the economic situation of combines and enterprises and within production collectives. All collectives that fulfill or overfulfill their plan tasks and that also cut back expeditures in keeping with plan norms should profit from the fruits of their labor to a greater extent than thus far. In any event, good work should be rewarded.

First and foremost it is necessary to cut back material consumption and thus production costs. Economic cost accounting will thus be further developed on the basis of the plan. Changes in industrial prices have already been undertaken. This applies to state measures in cutting back costs, to claiming investment payments, to the volume of assets and to other economic factors. All this will contribute to more firmly establishing the net production results achieved in enterprises as the criterion for the share contributed by each combine and enterprise to the national economy.

As democratic centralism implies, we link the central management and planning of the national economy more firmly with the self-responsibility of combines and enterprises and all establishments of the national economy, and we link them with the initiative and activity of the working people. One of our unshakable principles is that the annual plan tasks should be thoroughly discussed by our working collectives. All important projects, especially socialist rationalization and its socioeconomic consequences, are discussed with the enterprise trade unions. Our trade unions will continue to have extensive influence on the drafting of plans in keeping with their rights under the law.

Rapid international increases in the prices of important energy resources and raw materials require a further industrial price increase in the coming years. In this respect we are guided by the fact that costs and prices in industry and construction, in agriculture and transportation reflect real expenditures borne by the national economy. These expenditures are especially noticeable in cases in which such expenditures are most effectively influenced by the working people. As is known, the following is valid for us: What is useful for the national economy must also be advantageous for enterprises and combines. We also take account of this basic principle by means of regulating industrial prices, production prices and the transportation tariffs applied in the economy.

In setting prices we should now pay greater attention to work quality. At the same time, we should see to it that industrial prices further promote cutbacks in production expenditures. Higher prices should be an incentive for producers to manufacture products that require less materials and are of higher quality. It is very important for us to have these prices bring about top achievements in the area of those major products and technologies which can be rapidly put into extensive economic use. In this respect we must continue to strive to achieve a satisfactory price-achievement relationship.

Important steps were taken in the wake of the ninth party congress to implement the principle of socialist efficiency to which we attach great importance in promoting work discipline and work morale. We are thinking in particular of productive wages [produktivloehne] based on efficiency-oriented basic salaries and wages. We continue to apply this method which has proven itself. Remuneration is closely linked to scientific labor organization and to the application of efficiency indexes. The wage increase planned in combines and enterprises by means of productive wages is designed to achieve greater results in research work and in the development and production process. At the same time, this will be followed by a gradual efficiency-oriented wage policy for selected working groups--certainly always in keeping with out work results and with the potential of our national economy.

Our party considers the policy pertaining to consumer prices to be part of the general course of our main task. For more than two decades the consumer prices of basic-need goods in the GDR have remained unchanged. This comprises 80 percent of the goods affecting the population. We will continue to pursue a policy of stable consumer prices for all the goods of basic needs and also for rents, tariffs and services. As heretofore the prices for new and high-value products will be set in such a way as to have them, in general, cover the costs and ensure a normal profit [ertrag] as needed for the national economy calculations.

The organs of the state are charged with guaranteeing a continuous and requirement-oriented production and supply of the people with consumer goods within the lower, middle and higher price groups. In doing so care will be taken to see to it that, as in the past, the major portion of the goods falls in the middle-price group, a group ensuring solid standard quality. To have a supply that is differentiated as to value, quality and price is fully in keeping with the principle of socialist performance.

5. Further Deepening Cooperation With the USSR. Tasks Pertaining to Socialist Economic Integration

Dear comrades, as the development of socialism in the GDR continues to make progress, the economic and scientific-technical cooperation with the Soviet Union is becoming closer and its importance for the stability and dynamic expansion of our economy is growing more and more. The increasing intermeshing of our two national economies and the increasingly effective combining of their forces allow our two states--states that are allied in a fraternal manner--to progress along the common road in an accelerated manner. Our two countries are strengthening the joint potential of real socialism. This becomes even more important in view of the exacerbated conditions of the international class struggle.

The specialization and cooperation program for the period up to 1990 lays down our future far-reaching projects. The SED considers this program to possess fundamental political and economic significance. The jointly agreed measures aim at attaining higher effectivity. This can be called its decisive characteristic trait. Within the framework of plan coordination with the Soviet Union, mutual deliveries were agreed upon for the coming 5 years which attain a value of about R58 million, or M275 billion, calculated on the basis of 1981 prices. That is a huge volume of mutual deliveries. The Soviet Union, accounting for a share of about 40 percent of the GDR's total exchange of goods, will continue to be our largest partner in foreign trade. On the other hand, even in the new 5-year plan, the GDR will continue to be the largest trade partner of the Soviet Union. (strong and prolonged applause)

The deliveries of energy raw materials and other raw materials, as well as our considerable cooperation in this field, activities that have been agreed upon with the USSR, are of vital importance for the GDR. In the course of the next 5 years we will obtain from the USSR 95 million tons of crude oil, 32.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas, 16 million tons of rolled steel, 650,000 tons of aluminium, 457,000 tons of cellulose and 440,000 tons of cotton. The USSR will also deliver considerable amounts of ores, nonferrous metals, timber and paper, chemical basic materials and many other goods.

These large deliveries of crude oil, natural gas and other raw materials, deliveries that have been securely agreed upon on a long-term basis with the Soviet Union, are very advantageous for the GDR. In keeping with the principles governing price setting within CEMA, we import these goods at prices which, particularly in the case of energy materials, will continue to be lower than those on the capitalist world market, even for years to come. Yet, those prices will be subject to a considerable increase even in the trade between CEMA countries. That obliges us even more to improve even more effectively the quality of our exports so that we can obtain good prices for them.

The commonly agreed raw material imports are, to an essential part, the results of joint efforts. Thus, the GDR participates in building projects within the raw material sector of the USSR. The Soyuz natural gas mainline was the largest among them in recent years. The GDR section of this line was completed ahead of schedule, having been declared a central youth project of the FDJ. Thus our FDJ members made an essential contribution toward setting up an efficient raw-material and energy base. We also supply important equipment for the Soviet metal industry. We also provide support for the erection of certain CEMA projects such as the Ust-Ilimsk cellulose combine and the Kiyembay asbestos combine, plants that will provide the entire amount of additional deliveries of cellulose and asbestos envisaged for the current 5-year plan.

Our cooperation develops to our mutual advantage. To ensure the jointly agreed raw material imports we are above all making contributions by strictly fulfilling our export obligations relating to the export of modern machines, equipment, chemical products and consumer goods. These exports must be fully integrated in all plans and balance sheets on all levels of our national economy. We treat such obligations as a matter of proletarian internationalism. The party exercises strict control over their implementation.

The qualitative level and the rate of growth of these mutual deliveries and supplies are being increasingly affected by the results of our cooperation in research and production. Main stress is being laid on the development of microelectronics, computor and control technology, production of plastic materials and fibers, machine-tool production and the microbiology industry. These sectors exercise a decisive influence on scientific-technical progress. Our cooperation has been organized in such a way as to guarantee that the capacities existing in our two countries are utilized even more effectively. The already existing stable lines of labor division are being pursued further. On the other hand it is important to agree upon new and highly specialized production. This goes, in particular, for industrial materials, systems of machines and equipment and other finished products.

Within the framework of socialist economic integration the GDR will expand and deepen its economic and scientific-technical cooperation with all CEMA countries. The five long-term goal programs adopted by CEMA, programs intended for the period up to 1990 and designed at the same time to explain in detail and develop further CEMA's complex program, are a good foundation in attaining this goal. The tasks assigned to us as parts of the goal programs will become integral parts of the GDR's 5-year plan.

In keeping with agreements concluded with CEMA countries on coordinating 5-year plans 1981-1985, the mutual supply of goods will increase in this period to more than M475.5 billion. This is 43.6 percent more than in the elapsed 5-year plan period. Since the ninth congress the mutual exchange of specialized and cooperative products has more than doubled and it has increased considerably faster than the total trade with those countries. That trend will continue.

Jointly developed products that respond to the highest scientific requirements will increasingly be incorporated in about 500 agreements and contracts on specialization and cooperation in production, agreements in which the GDR participates on a bilateral or multilateral basis. The advantages of this highly developed form of cooperation within CEMA can be seen in the fact that in every single case mutual profit and advantage is guaranteed, which is highly useful for the participating national economies.

In view of the tremendous amounts of goods that are being moved, together with the USSR and the other CEMA countries we will pay greater attention to our foreign trade transport. Joint measures are in preparation to make transit lines and seaports more efficient and introduce modern transportation technology.

We will continue to lend comprehensive assistance to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Cuba. That is why agreements were signed with the two countries for 1981-1985 which provide for increased rates of speed in the growth of goods turnover. The agreements will also make it possible to strengthen those countries' economic foundations, being countries that experience particular difficulties as a result of the imperialist policy of aggression and blockade. In this sense the GDR also takes part in investment projects in those two countries, developing scientific-technical cooperation and assisting in the schooling of qualified cadres. From those countries we receive important imports including raw materials and agricultural produce. As has been previously agreed upon we will also continue to give support to the Mongolian People's Republic and we will continue to develop cooperation in the interest of mutual benefit.

Proceedings from the firm foundation of our economic relations with the socialist countries, we will continue to develop and expand our foreign trade with the industrialized capitalist countries.

This serves the policy of peaceful coexistence and at the same time furthers the growth of our republic's national economy. We are still of the conviction that trade with capitalist countries can be carried out on the basis of equality, without any kind of discrimination, obstructions and restrictions. Trade should take place on a long-term base, a basis that is stable and agreed upon in pertinent agreements.

To fully utilize and capitalize on our potential it will be necessary, in all sectors of our export industry, to possess profitable products of high quality. Successful export also requires us to keep ourselves informed, promptly and well in advance, about the market situation, prices and payment conditions and also to engage in active sales campaigns and improve our service to customer and in supplying spare parts. The uniform and complex guidance and management of science, technology, production and sales within the framework of the combines, also including foreign trade, provides much better opportunities to achieve a substantial increase in export and bring about greater effectiveness. By setting up dual jurisdiction over the foreign trade enterprises we are taking an important step toward improving management and planning, at the same time strictly observing the state's monopoly over foreign trade and foreign exchange transactions.

IV. Requirements for Further Intellectual-Cultural Development Under Socialism

1. Development and Tasks of the Sciences in the GDR

Dear Comrades, we can report significant results in science after the ninth party congress. Our country's scientists and their creative contributions exert great influence on further strengthening the GDR. In our socialist state science and its institutions enjoy lofty esteem. Mutual respect is the result of the closest cooperation on the basis of scientific socialism and the policy of the party. Top scientific knowledge and political responsibility cannot be separated under present conditions.

The requirement to have close cooperation between basic applied and technological research and development is being fulfilled increasingly better. A high degree of concentration in scientific and scientific-technical potentials has been achieved in highly important sectors such as nuclear energy research, microelectronics, raw material research, technical microbiology, intercosmos research and petrochemistry. By promoting basic research we succeeded in making a larger number of contributions to top achievements in producing goods, developing production methods and technologies and in increasing the number of scientific achievements that have been introduced in the daily practice of our national economy.

In some highly specialized fields we take in determining the world standard: In selected fields of high atmosphere physics, the theory and methodology of solids, pyrolysis of high-boil-temperature hydrocarbon reactions, seismology and the mine safety, distant earth prospecting by means of aerocosmic devices, oncologic virology and immunology, vegetation biochemistry, neutron therapy for combating malignant and other growths, and in some fields of mathematics. These successes are primarily a result of a socialist international research cooperation which develops according to plans, and cooperation above all with the scientific institutions of the Soviet Union. In many fields of basic research such cooperation relations have become more efficient and have essentially contributed to securing the scientfic research lead in the GDR.

In further shaping the developed socialist society the responsibility of science and of all scientists to society is growing. To the same extent society's responsibility is growing to develop and perfect science and to apply its results. It is and will remain a main concern of our party to continue to develop GDR science and to shape its progress--promoting and humanist character in such a way that it increasingly better contributes to increasing the GDR's economic strength and to raising the material and intellectual living standard of all working people.

In line with the far-reaching goals set for the mathematical, scientific and technical basic research it is now necessary to concentrate our country's scientific potential even more strongly on key points that correspond to the present and future economic, social and scientific necessities. We need top performances which thoroughly improve the technical and technological level or production, permit still more efficient use of energy and raw material resources, and substantially increase the labor potential through socialist rationalization and automation of the production processes. Here the academies of sciences, the universities and colleges and the research institutions of enterprises and combines bear special responsibility.

Everything must be done to start research work as early as possible in new, promising fields of science, both through efforts of our own and within the framework of international socialist scientific cooperation. At the same time it is essential to prepare the necessary steps for future use by the national economy and by society of results thus obtained. Here it is necessary to always conscientiously follow the international development trends and responsibly to assess our actual potential, so as to adjust the structure and quality of research as biotechnology, mechanics, nuclear fusion and geology are increasingly gaining in importance and are influencing the further development of productive forces.

The main lines of basic research for the new 5-year plan are formulated in the decisions on mathematical-scientific-and technical basic research and on medical research. They concern efficient use of energy resources, consistent energy conservation and the scientific-technical lead in developing new types of energy sources; the most efficient utilization and higher refinement of the new materials available to us; the development and rationalization of basic materials, industrial materials and other materials basis; the raising of labor productivity through rationalization and automation, especially the accelerated development and application of microelectronics, industrial robots and digital and nondigital controls of machines; the working out and implementing of a program for health nutrition and a healthy way of life, and for still better medical and social care for our people. It is of particularly great importance to expend technological research at the academies of sciences, technical colleges and the research centers of the national economy.

The long-term goals worked out by research need to be constantly specified in greater detail, in line with scientific and economic requirements. We regard raising the efficiency of scientific work and struggling for high achievements in research as the primary task of scientists and collectives in all research institutions. New lines of development in research require farsightedness, personal involvement, determination and acceptance of social responsibility for the interests of the socialist state.

One of the most important indications of national responsibility in science is the attitude of the research collectives and primarily of their scientific leaders toward quality and the standards of work. We emphatically support the viewpoint of many scientists that the yardstick for assessing research results can only be the most advanced level in the field concerned, and that it is therefore necessary to leave no stone unturned to familiarize oneself with the highest international level. In this respect great opportunities are opened by our cooperation with scientific institutions in many countries of the world, especially with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, a cooperation which is growing as a result of our scientific achievements.

The matter of high achievements in science is largely linked with the selection and purposeful development of young cadres capable of fully complying with the requirements of scientific work. Young, able scientists should earlier be given opportunties to take over responsibility and to further prove their worth.

The Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of University and Technical School Matters and the Ministry of Public Education within the framework of the uniform socialist school system should see to it that the existing forms of selection and promotion of talent at schools and universities be used still more effectively and that new forms be developed.

Ensuring a high scientific level of diploma and graduation work and the earliest possible defense of dissertations has a strong influence on rearing the next generation of scientists.

The decisive prerequisites for important scientific results also include the availability of scientific apparatus and other research materials, including chemicals for laboratories and refined chemicals. In addition to the most intensive utilization of existing equipment and research aids, a certain part of these material-technical conditions has to be planned, further developed and produced in the research sector itself. The task arises from this for the basic research institutions to further systematically expand and strengthen scientific apparatus building as well as to develop and produce certain research materials in cooperation with industry.

The strong involvement of research collectives in scientific apparatus building and developing highly sensitive equipment has become an important constituent part of the research process. It also includes working out and supplying efficient processes and systems of data processing and transmission, as well as expanding scientific information and documentation.

In the future, too, our party will do everything to systematically expand and promote basic research as a source of new findings on laws governing the interconnections between nature and society. What matters is to make a growing contribution toward the treasure of theoretical findings, and at the same time to introduce results of basic research more quickly and effectively into practice. The high responsibility of scientists for basic research also includes their active participation in the application of their results in the interest of the people and social progress.

The integration of science and production is the path that must be still more comprehensively developed in the coming years. To this end, cooperative relations with the combines are to be especially expanded, and the exchange of scientific cadres and raising their professional level must be more consistently implemented. The funds of the institutions of the GDR Academy of Sciences and the universities must be purposefully used for further strengthening the technical basis, especially the establishment and expansion of technical schools. Moreover, it is necessary to organize, together with the enterprise, the joint use of pilot plants and technical installations. Joint research collectives and collectives for practical application have proved useful in comprehensively solving important scientific-technical tasks and implementing practical application projects.

We are orienting on more effective utilization of the favorable opportunities for cooperation, resulting from the establishment of combines, to accelerate scientific-technical progress. At the same time, it is also necessary to make still greater effort to achieve scientific integration, and to consciously promote the collaboration of natural, technical and social sciences.Dear comrades, the social sciences of our republic have accomplished a great deal. That holds true for the enrichment of the theory and practice of socialism, the management and planning of social processes, the development of socialist awareness and the intellectual-cultural life of the working people, as well as for the struggle against imperialism and its ideology. The 1976-1980 central research plan of the GDR Marxist-Leninist social sciences has been fulfilled. Valuable studies, research reports, monographs and textbooks have been published. Scientific conferences have enriched theoretical work and intellectual life.

New demanding tasks have been stipulated in the 1981-1985 central research plan. Their fulfillment makes it necessary to penetrate social practice and further raise the theoretical level, quality and social effectiveness of research. We appeal to our social scientists to contribute through new scientific findings to solving the problems that are ahead of us in the 1980's regarding the further shaping of the developed socialist society.

Here it will be an essential task to theoretically substantiate socialism, convincingly, as the real humanism of our era, and to thoroughly analyze and even more convincingly depict its natural laws and motive forces, its advantages and values.

It remains a primary task, especially for philosophy, political economy and scientific communism, to further work out our materialistic-dialectic world outlook and to depict its unity of scientific nature and revolutionary spirit. Works designed to further perfect the Marxist-Leninist view of history, especially concerning the history of the GDR and our revolutionary militant party, are of great importance for strengthening the working people's socialist awareness.

The organic connection of the achievements of the scientific-technical revolution with the advantages of socialism poses important tasks for social scientists and for their collaboration with specialists in the fields of natural and technical sciences. We expect thorough analyses and proposals for workable solutions to the problem of how the motive forces of socialism can be still more effectively utilized for the development of science and technology and for the application of its results, especially in the national economy.

Above all, the social scientists should find those economic, social, state-legal and ideological conditions and requirements that can lead to a further acceleration of scientific-technical progress and to increasing its economic and social effectiveness. Closely related with that are works on the dialectic interactions between scientific-technical progress and the development of man as the main productive force, the nature and content of his work, education and culture as well as the world outlook of the workers class and all working people.

Research regarding management and planning in the national economy is highly important. The utilization of the qualitative factors of economic growth, the development of the material-technical basis should continue to be thoroughly studied by the economic sciences. In connection with the development and consolidation of the combines in industry and the building sector, research projects on the socialization processes as well as management and planning in the economy are gaining increasing importance. The implementation of socialist rationalization, and primarily the increase in the effectiveness of human labor, of the competition and innovation movements, should be purposefully promoted through scientific investigations.

The further shaping of the political organization of socialism requires thorough theoretical work about the leading role of the party and its policy of alliance, about strengthening the worker-peasant power and about perfecting socialist democracy.

Comprehensive studies about the growing influence of socialism on the international balance of power, about the development of the revolutionary world process an its three main streams, about the dialectics of peaceful coexistence and the class struggle, and about the struggle for peace, against the arms race intensified by imperialism and for disarmament have gained special importance. The slanderous attacks by bourgeois, revisionist and ultra-leftist ideologists against real socialism, its policy of peace and against the communist world movement must be rejected from an offensive position, and must be refuted with convincing arguments.

The multiple interactions among the various sectors of society, and between nature and society, more and more cogently require comprehensive, interdepartmental work. They make great demands on the management and organization of the sciences as well as on the ability and readiness of every single scientist to work with the problems and results of other departments and to contribute great achievements of his own to the joint work.

Regarding implementation of these tasks we place great expectations on the academy of sciences and other academies, the universities and colleges, the institutes of the party and the "Karl Marx" higher party school.

2. Role and Tasks of the Universities and Technical Schools

Comrades, through implementation of the ninth party congress decisions on science and university policy, the universities and colleges have developed into efficient centers of education, basic and advanced training, and research. In the 1976-80 period, 244,700 graduates from universities, colleges and technical schools, who had directly attended those schools, took jobs in the national economy. In the same period, 212,000 working people successfully completed advanced education courses in various forms.

Universities education is based on newly introduced study plans and teaching programs through which the principles of the unity of training and education, teaching and research, and of theory and practice are implemented in a qualitatively new manner. As we were able to establish, the 1-year preliminary practical courses in important fields of study as a preparatory phase for studying and for future professions have proved useful. Military training and civil defense training have become a firm compenent part of the studies. At the engineering and specialized schools, too, substantial results were achieved in improving the quality of studies and in combining training with socialist practice.

The research potential at higher schools was systematically expanded and concentrated on basic problems of science as well as of the social and national economic development. By developing close and multifaceted relations with the enterprises and combines, much progress was achieved in introducing research results into practice and utilizing them there.

With the Politburo's decision on the "Tasks of the Universities in the Developed Socialist Society" of March 1980, the decisions about mathematical-natural science and technical basic research and about medical research, and with the central research plan for social sciences, we have a comprehensive long-term concept for sharing the contents of the development of science and university education. This concept centers on the demand to further increase the productivity of intellectual work in teaching, studying and research. The fifth university conference of the GDR emphatically demonstrated the will of all members of our country's highest educational institutions to implement the course mapped out in this concept through outstanding accomplishments.

It is very essential to obtaining a higher quality and effectiveness of scientific work to further improve the training and communist education of the students who, as graduates, will have to live up to the much higher requirements of society in the 1990's. Socialism needs graduates who possess the latest scientific knowledge, practical know-how and skills, and a comprehensive intellectual-cultural education. They should be graduates who independently orient themselves in the sphere of science and who responsibly put scientific findings to practical use. They should be graduates who, with party-mindedness and personal involvement, actively work for the new life, for the strengthening of socialism.

All this requires training at the highest scientific level. University teachers have the societal assignment to educate student youth in the spirit of the scientific world outlook of the workers class, to develop high discipline in studying, as well as to challenge and promote their individual sense of responsibility and independence. What matters is to fully use during the student period all potential in developing independent scientific work of the students as well as their personal initiative and their readiness to accept a share in responsibility. The work of the students on youth projects, in rationalization and drafting offices as well as in student competition is acquiring increasing importance as a constituent part of the studies. In particular, the teachers must seek to still more purposefully recognize and promote gifted and talented students for the next generation of scientists and artists.

In over three decades it has proved to be right in systematically familiarizing the students with the foundations of Marxism-Leninism, with the history of the revolutionary workers movement and the decisions of the party. Thus they enabled making the party's policy the guideline of their actions and to consciously use their high professional knowledge to strengthen socialism.

The professional knowledge of the students and their ability to further specifically develop their political activity and to deepen their intellectual-cultural education is a joint task for all members of the teaching body and the socialist youth organization which, through its active collaboration at all levels of leadership in university education, guarantees comprehensive representation of the students' interests.

In the future the postgraduate schooling of university and technical school cadres will acquire a status comparable to that of basic studies. It must be shaped in such a way that it proceeds from the results of basic education, makes allowance for the differentiated and growing requirements resulting from the professional activities of the university and technical school cadres, and ensures that the latest research results quickly produce practical effects.

The outstanding role of science in further implementing our party's program also requires from the universities and colleges that they systematically further develop their scientific potential and that they use it with the highest effectivenss to further accelerate social and scientific-technical progress. Together with the Academy of Sciences the universities and colleges bear a great responsibility for developing basic research. Applied research must be developed in an appropriate ratio to basic research. The shaping of relations with the combines and institutions must aim at perfecting the material-technical conditions for research and education, and at resolutely accelerating the process of practical application.

At the universities, colleges and technical schools there are on the whole good prerequisites for meeting the needs of the developed socialist society for highly qualified socialist cadres. It is necessary to consistently use every opportunity to fulfill enrollment plans in accordance with the interests of the national economy, to school students up to their graduation, and to ensure that graduates get jobs in accordance with their qualifications.

This applies particularly to such branches of study which are of eminent importance for the development of our economic capacity. Primarily more young people should be induced to study technical sciences. This will not only make great demands on the enterprise vocational schools, the expanded secondary schools and the higher schools themselves, but it also requires that the combines and enterprises work out education concepts of their own. On the basis of those concepts, the assignment for studies according to plan, and the assignment of jobs for graduates in accordance with their qualifications must be ensured.

3. Public Education and the Communist Education of the Youth

Dear comrades, in the further specific development of our 10-grade general polytechnic secondary school further progress has been achieved. We paid special attention to perfecting the communist education of the students, to further strengthening the school's polytechnical nature and to constantly raising the secondary school education level. In the past 5-year plan period, 1,184,100 students graduated from secondary schools. For every one of them an apprentice or higher school place was available. No capitalist country can claim that.

Since the ninth party congress, some 47,600 teachers took up work in the public education sector. In new residential areas and elsewhere 16,200 classrooms were built--that is approximately tantamount to 625 two-track secondary schools--as well as 735 school gymnasiums. Thus we ensure that in future all girls and boys will have access to secondary school education under favorable conditions. For physically and mentally handicapped children and young people 1,404 classrooms and 6,160 boarding school places were built. Our state spent in this period more than M640 million to equip schools with modern teaching aids and furniture. The annual school book production amounts to about 30 million copies.

In the 1976-1980 period, 104,854 full-day school places were provided. Today all children whose parents so desire can use one of them. At the same time, 91,122 new kindergarten places were established.

At Berlin Wuhlheide the "Ernst Thaelmann" Pioneer Palace was built and handed over to the Pioneer organization. Thus the party has fulfilled an important promise made to youth. Since its opening in April 1979 the Pioneer Palace has had over 1 million visitors and has become a center of interesting and multifaceted extracurricular activity.

Comrades, based on the tenet that the tasks for education and schooling can be correctly determined only if we proceed from the requirements of the socialist revolution, from real social processes, the eighth pedagogue congress has worked out guidelines for the communist education of youth based on the party program. They include all aspects of school work and stress the entire society's responsibility regarding education of youth. The congress has touched off multifarious initiatives among the teachers, among all working people. A broad movement has developed to seek a higher quality of pedagogic work, for creatively searching for effective teaching and education methods, for purposeful and understanding work with youth.

Our 10-grade general polytechnical secondary school is one of the most important accomplishments of our socialist society. By its establishment, decisive prerequisites were created for attaining our education objective, the shaping of comprehensive developed personalities. In our secondary school the idea of the revolutionary workers movement has been implemented, to combine "...for all children, as of a certain age, productive work with schooling and gymnastics" (Karl Marx, "Capital," in Marx-Engels Works, Berlin 1962, volume 23, page 508--NEUES DEUTSCHLAND footnote) to combine school and production, learning and active participation in building socialism. Irrespective of the parents' social position, our secondary school provides for all children a high, scientifically-founded general education. It includes education in social sciences and arts, in the mother tongue and foreign languages and in natural sciences, as well as polytechnical education and physical training.

It is one of the assets of socialism that by such comprehensive education real prerequisites have been created to give all children equal chances. At a time when in many countries in the world the right to education is still withheld from the working people and in the countries of the monopolies education as a privilege continues to exist, it is conspicuous proof of the deeply humanist nature of socialism and its superiority to capitalism.

As our socialist society advances further, the importance of education is growing, considering that science and education more and more profoundly permeate life in all sectors of society. We regard it as a priority task to use the growing education potential for scientific-technical progress, to achieve higher results in all sectors of the national economy, for effective ideopolitical work and for a full life, rich in culture, for all citizens.

The further development of public education in the coming years will be determined by comprehensively utilizing all advantages of our general polytechnical secondary school for the schooling and education of youth. That means ensuring a high quality and effectiveness of pedagogical work. The potentials of the public education system must be made still more effective for a high-level education of youth that is closely linked with practice and is effective in life, to achieve the development of the young people's creative thinking and behavior, their awareness and activity, their class-consistent position and their politically conscious actions.

It is a characteristic advantage of our secondary school that it is a polytechnical school that is closely linked with life, with production. The training of young people must continue to be in the focus of attention of the combines, of the enterprise collectives. That requires a close cooperation of workers, cooperative peasants, engineers and teachers. Good experiences from this joint work should be generally applied. The students' experiences with practical work and work at enterprises are to be used still more effectively for a close-to-life schooling and education of the young revolutionaries of today.

The possibilities inherent in the public education system are to be used still more effectively to ensure that everyone is given the necessary promotion, finds his place in life, and can use his energies and skills to the benefit of the people and for his own benefit. This includes care for every individual person, including those persons who are physically and mentally handicapped. That is a humanist duty of our society which it is fulfilling increasingly better.

The great tasks in the struggle for scientific-technical top achievements and top achievements in all other fields make it necessary to still better utilize all opportunities to recognize in good time gifted and talented persons, and to purposefully develop and systematically promote such gifts and talents.

Our school has contributed a great deal to ensuring that our youth has been brought up in loyalty to worker-peasant power and has proved its worth in strengthening and protecting the socialist fatherland. The further advance of socialism in the socialist world process and the exacerbation of the international class struggle is making high demands on the class-consistent education of youth, the deepening of its patriotic and internationalist attitude, and its political steadfastness in any situation. We want to make even broader use of the experiences and results of our struggle in order to strengthen our young people's pride in their socialist fatherland, which has been strengthened through the diligent labor of the working people and in a hard class struggle, primarily against imperialism in the FRG, and to deepen their love for their homeland.

It is the task of the teachers, of the whole society, of our cultural workers, our literature and our mass media, to familiarize the young generation with the history of our GDR, the fighting and working traditions of our people, the antifascist resistance struggle. It also includes awakening deep, friendly feelings for the country of Lenin and the other fraternal socialist countries, education to internationalist thinking and acting. (strong applause) Our youth must be ready and able to represent our ideas aggressively and to defend the socialist fatherland against any enemy and at any time.

Educational work with youth should be still more consciously oriented toward those fundamental values of socialism which increasingly determine the way of life of the society and of the individual, such as comradely cooperation and mutual aid, solidarity, active readiness to learn, high esteem of work performed, equality of rights, social justice, and societal activity. Youth must be induced and challenged to advocate such values and to still more comprehensively bring them to bear in life. The norms of socialist ethics and morality must be implemented everywhere in our everyday life. This includes developing feelings for what is true, good and beautiful and for cultured attitudes. For that, the autonomous conscious collaboration of the FDJ and the "Ernest Thaelmann" Pioneer organization is an indispensable prerequisite.

With implementation of the sociopolitical program increasingly favorable conditions are developing for the life of the families and the full exertion of their responsibility in educating their children. We very much rely on the broad cooperation of all parents. For educating good citizens, morally consolidated and of firm character, a trustful collaboration of teachers and parents is indispensible.

Our youth must be well prepared by pedagogic work to master modern science and technology so as to apply it for the benefit of man in line with the nature of the socialist social system. The scientific-technical revolution is a challenge for youth, for its energies and abilities, and thus for the quality of teaching. For this great education task our school needs the collaboration of the combines, the enterprises, the scientific institutions, the scientific societies, the scientists, engineers, technicians and skilled workers. Radio, television, newspapers and periodicals should help develop among the young people a love of science and technology, and stimulate them to puzzle, do research and try their hand at inventing things. Competitions, fairs, student societies, working groups, and all extracurricular activities must be still more effectively used to that end.

It is a great advantage of our socialist school that the students are familiarized with selected basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism in social science classes with special consideration of their age-consistent development. The teaching programs and textbooks on these subjects are to be further perfected with the aim of increasing the scientific quality and closeness to life of teaching, and of ensuring better coordination with other forms of propagating Marxism-Leninism among youth. More attention should be paid to the age-consistent level of imparting our world outlook at various levels of education. In all subjects of instruction a high quality of specialized teaching is indispensible for ideological education.

The results of education confirm that our school's concept with regard to content has proved its worth and can continue to serve as a good foundation for a high quality of teaching. Wherever, on the strength of experiences and scientific findings, changes in teaching plans and teaching aids are necessary, they will be effected. What is highly important are teaching aids and working materials, especially textbooks for students. They are indispensible for stimulating and intellectually activating the students, for inducing them to independently concern themselves with the subjects of instruction, and for consolidating acquired knowledge. Teaching aids and school equipment, which represent a substantial part of our national assets, should be even better utilized.

Our party highly respects the teachers' sacrifices. How school tasks are solved depends on the position of the teacher in society, on his personality, his general and specialized education, his political attitude, his intellectual-cultural level and his attitude toward children and teenagers. No teacher must dodge the duty to continue studying, to read and exchange experiences, if he wants to keep abreast with developments. The pedagogic sciences should pay still more attention to the problems of teachers and instructors, study and generalize their experiences, and come up with additional results that are effective in practice and on a high theoretical level.

In teachers' training, future teachers must be still better prepared for their creative work at the schools. To this end, the scientific level and practical preparation for school work must be further developed to ensure that the teachers' training better meets future requirements.

The decision of the ninth party congress to enable all children of the age groups concerned, whose parents so desire, to attend kindergartens has been implemented, although the birth rate has been going up. Our kindergartners did a great job to ensure for the 3 to 6 year old children a happy childhood and to prepare them well for school. The kindergartens are indeed not just places where children are being taken care of but an important stage of our uniform socialist education system. In the interest of a healthy and comprehensive development of the childrens, and the care for every single child, due attention should be paid to the pedagogic atmosphere in the kindergartens, to a suitable rhythm of the day's activities with alternate phases for games, rest, exercise in the open air, studying and purposeful individual activities, as well as to a sensible discipline. What matters in particular here is a close cooperation between family and kindergartners.

Our polytechnical secondary school is preparing the young people well for their work and occupation. The choice of occupation is the first great decision in a young person's life. We have made important progress toward helping the girls and boys in making this decision in such a way that the social requirements and personal interests, inclinations and abilities can be conciliated as far as possible. This also applies to the decision for university or technical school studies, which can now be made in close connection with the choice of occupation for all secondary school students. We should utilize the good experiences for making the entire system of occupational orientation, the vocational guidance programs of the mass media, the advertizing and information campaigns by the enterprises, universities, technical schools and vocational guidance centers for students and parents, still more effective in cooperation with the school.

Comrades, socialist vocational training has made an important contribution to bringing up a young generation with good vocational qualifications. Proceeding from the high educational level of the polytechnic secondary school, more than 1 million school graduates were trained as skilled workers. All young people got an apprentice place, vocational training and a secured job.

Even under the conditions of increasing numbers of apprentices, the quality of vocational training was further raised. Its material-technical conditions were improved. Since the ninth party congress, 1,317 classrooms, 31,913 apprentice-home places and 50 gymnasiums were built. All that had a mobilizing effect and increased the zest for achievement of apprentices and teachers, as well as the effectiveness of the vocational contest.

At the side of the working people, the apprentices are struggling for high performances in work and study. More than 90 percent of the apprentices achieve a steady skilled workers performance by the end of their apprenticeship. This development is to be steadily continued. That requires the complete fulfillment of the state teaching plans, with a high quality, as well as a solid general and vocational basic education together with the vocational specialization.

The overwhelming majority of apprentices and young skilled workers who have emerged from the socialist vocational training are today making outstanding contributions to strengthening our republic. The vocational training, together with active support by the workers class, by the FDJ and the trade unions, is imparting to all young people solid political and vocational knowledge.

The new 5-year plan sets the target of training at about 1 million young qualified skilled workers. The tested course of combining vocational training with the secondary school final examination [abitur] will be continued. This puts rather high demands on the teaching masters, engineer-teachers, teachers, tutors, skilled worker-teachers and working collectives.

The qualification level of the working people was further increased according to plan. Thus, 310,400 working people acquired skilled workers qualifications, and 75,000 skilled workers obtained master's qualifications. More than 1.5 million working people participated annually in advanced education programs, and a sixth of them were young skilled workers.

High vocational knowledge and abilities, creativeness, initiative, zest for achievement and a conscious working discipline are an indispensible prerequisite for coping with modern technology. The cornerstone for that is laid in vocational training that meets the current and future requirements. With the aid of teaching-production programs specifically adapted to meet training requirements, apprentices are to increasingly contribute to the production growth of the enterprises. They are to be trained and work in youth brigades on a larger scale.

To solve the tasks of schooling and educating the young generation of the workers class, the advantages and opportunities of the combines are to be comprehensively utilized in collaboration with the responsible state organs. The teaching masters and vocational school teachers are to be supplied by the enterprises and combines with the necessary equipment so that they can focus training more than in the past on the requirements of scientific-technical progress.

To ensure production safety and an uninterrupted flow of production as well as to maintain order and discipline in work, the advanced training of working people provided by the combines and ministries is to be made more obligatory. It is necessary to more consistently see to it that the working people are prepared in good time for new production requirements. An essential factor for utilizing all efficiency reserves is the loyalty of young skilled workers to their enterprises and the creative application of their vocational experiences in the production process.

Scientific-technical progress requires a number of new types of vocations and schooling measures.

At the same time it is necessary to continue training skilled workers in the time-tested and traditional vocations, in line with the national economic structure, so as to guarantee an adequate number of young workers for all vocations.

4. The Cultural Policy of the Party. The Development of Arts and Literature

Dear comrades, a rich intellectual life is characteristic for socialism. Not only does the further shaping of the developed socialist society make higher demands on the performance capacity of the people--at the same time it makes possible, and at the same time promotes, the full development of their intellectual needs and abilities. We always proceed from the principle of raising the cultural together with the material living standards, because we are seeking in socialism a purposeful and beautiful life for everyone.

From our culture, which is marked by the lofty ideals of the revolutionary workers movement, strong stimuli are emanating to disseminate the socialist world outlook, to seek high vocational qualification, and to satisfy multifaceted intellectual claims ranging as far as dealing with the arts. By their contribution arts are playing a great role that makes them indispensable and irreplaceable. Our party and our socialist state have created favorable prerequisites for the development of arts. The relations between arts and society, artists and party, artists and people in our socialist present are solid and productive.

With full justification we can speak of the GDR as a "reading country." Publishing houses, the book trade and libraries have done a great many things which benefit the growing interest in reading of our country's citizens. Readers in 1970 were supplied with approximately 5,000 books with a total number of 122 million copies by our 78 publishing houses, the corresponding 1980 figures were 6,100 books with 148 million copies. In the past 5 years more than 700 people's bookstores succeeded in raising their sales of books and booklets by 32 percent. In 1980 every citizen spent an average of M40 buying books.

Every seventh book published in the GDR is a translation from another language: and in belletristic literature, even every third book. Every year translations from nearly 40 languages are published. The world-openness of the GDR publishers has proved its worth and is highly valued internationally.

The books in public libraries last year reached a total of 80 million units. In 1980, over 100 million books were loaned out by libraries. Two-thirds of the children and teenagers of our country are constant library users.

At the more than 150 theaters of our country, there are more than 1,600 productions annually for the benefit of the public. The repertoire comprises works from over 30 countries. With about 26,000 performances and over 10 million spectators the GDR is among the leading countries of the world in this field. About 80 million people annually visit our country's movie theaters, among them many young people. In 1980, 3.2 million people attended concerts, including 585,000 participants in school concerts. The 636 museums and museum-like commemoration places registered since the ninth party congress an annual visitors total of over 31 million, and 36 percent of the visitors were children or teenagers.

With their specific means the houses of culture and the clubs contributed to developing a full, multifaceted and interesting intellectual-cultural life at the enterprises, and in the towns and local communities of the GDR. Proceeding from the higher education and cultural level of larger sections of the population and from the needs especially of the workers class and the youth, they increased their ideological and mass effectiveness. This is reflected by the 50 percent increase in the number of visitors as against 1970, which brought the 1980 total of visitors to all GDR houses of culture, managed professionally or on an honorary basis, to 100 million.

Comrades, we can state that our cultural policy adopted by the ninth party congress has borne good fruit. Arts and culture are increasingly effectively influencing the development of socialist personalities and the specific development of the socialist way of life. They help consolidate and promote socialist convictions and behavior patterns. They strengthen the citizens' affinity with our socialist state and their pride in our revolutionary achievements. By their accomplishments the artists and cultural workers have made a great contribution to ensuring that the values and ideals of socialism more and more emphatically determine thinking, feeling and acting by the working people.

In the 1980's the claims regarding the quality and effectiveness of our socialist culture and arts will further increase. Indeed they contribute to setting free the creative element in man, to raising the enjoyment of work and the well-being of the working people in the socialist society. It is necessary everywhere to further improve the intellectual-cultural prerequisites for raising our performance.

The central aspect is the constant raising of the cultural level of the worker class and its achievements for the development of socialist culture and arts. Through broadly developing its creativeness at work and in leisure time the workers class, together with the other working people, decisively influences cultural progress in the GDR. The enterprise festivals and the GDR workers festivals are acquiring increasing importance.

Considerable progress has also been made in developing the socialist standard of work. This applies primarily to scientifically organizing work, shaping the working environment and products, healthy and safe working conditions, and to relations among the working people marked by honesty and friendliness toward colleagues and helpfulness.

We can say that socialist literature and arts essentially contribute to shaping our country's social life. The close affinity of our party with writers and creative artists is a valuable asset and the basis for the successful further development of our socialist national culture. The activities of the Academy of Arts and of the artists associations have essentially contributed to further specifically shaping the atmosphere of mutual trust and high claims that is conducive to artistic work. They resolutely rejected attacks on our cultural policy and declared that universally strengthening the GDR as a socialist worker-peasant state also constitutes the basis of their artistic work.

In declarations of intent in connection with the 10th party congress which were published by our mass media, cultural workers from various sectors declared that their place can only be at the side of the GDR workers class that is led by its battle-tested Marxist-Leninist party. By their work, they declared, they were taking part in shaping the developed socialist society in time-tested and trustful cooperation, and participated in the political struggles of our time. Thus, they said, they complied at the same time with their responsibility for the richness and the growth of our culture, the preservation of its heritage and the victory of things beautiful, to the benefit of the people.

The artists and writers motivate this profession of loyalty by the very fact that they were born among the people and have risen with the people. They declare that they always received the decisive stimuli for their work from the spiritual, ethical and political conformity of arts and people. They add that with the means at their disposal, they are seeking to contribute to the conscious shaping of all humanist and especially the communist ideals in our life. These are good and impressive words, spoken from a position of personal involvement and we are certain that they will flow into works that will enrich the thinking, feeling and acting of the people in socialism. (prolonged applause)

During the past few years arts and literature have produced many words that are part of our constantly changing socialist reality and at the same time to some extent help bring about such changes. It is true that not everything that was produced meets such high standards.

Artistic talent is indeed rare, and to treat it with care and to attentively promote it is and will remain a firm principle of our party's cultural policy. Such talent will not be able to mature to masterliness, develop into masterliness if it wanders between worlds, between the fronts of the class struggle, nor if it focuses on unimportant things and is thus wasted.

The posing and answering of questions of our time, questions about the value of man and his position in society, about freedom and responsibility, about the claim to happiness and the possibilities of acheiving it in socialism constitute one of the most noteworthy achievements of socialist-realistic arts since the ninth party congress. Socialist arts can and must find their field of activity where, as is stated in our party program, it is necessary to overcome behavior patterns that are alien to the nature of our socialist society.

Comrades, if we think about the education level of the people in our country, their rich experiences as builders of socialism their constantly growing cultural requirements, then we must also take into consideration that their claims on literature and arts are growing. This applies both to the works of contemporary socialist art and developing the progressive heritage and imparting everything that is valuable in world culture.

He who accomplishes a task as great and as beautiful as ours wants to find in literature a source of more profound information about our life with its revolutionary breath, its struggles and its conflicts. He wants to derive from it ethical, moral and philosophical gain, in the spirit of socialism. That requires artistic creation that is not only close to reality but also true to reality, with the full wealth of its means of expression. It is to be both an intellectual stimulus, and an impetus for facing up to the demands of our time and coping with them.

In view of the tremendous accomplishments achieved in the past few decades, it is certainly justified to say that, in contrast to the bourgeois society, intellect and power have united. Nothing can be changed by the hue and cry of those who cannot comprehend that our people, through the seizure of power by the workers class--to quote Engels--has taken the decisive step from the realm of necessity to the realm of freedom. (Prolonged, strong applause). More than 30 years of the GDR's existence have confirmed the truth that literature and arts have never before been able to develop so freely on German soil as in our socialist GDR.

Freedom and partymindedness do not exclude one another--one the contrary. Partymindedness, affinity with the people and a content of socialist ideas are and will remain the criteria that primarily determine the value of a work of art. It is a great and fascinating task to recognize and to artistically depict the revolutionary transformation of our society in all its multifaceted aspects and abundance of conflicts. By devoting themselves to this task, literature and arts are making an important contribution to fashioning socialist awareness and developing the creative energy of the working people.

Literature and the arts are contributing to fully implementing the concept of the responsibility of the arts under socialism and for the sake of socialism. As we know, literature in particular exerts an ideological effect. The strength of a socialist position, the strength of political conviction and of a certain world outlook are absolutely necessary for the awareness of the artist regarding his responsibility. The GDR does not exist in a vacuum. We are building socialism under circumstances of a difficult struggle against imperialism, as well as against reactionary bourgeois ideology in all its manifestations. We resolutely reject all aspiration to propagate hostile ideologies disguised as arts, ideologies which are directed against real socialism and against our party's policy. (strong applause)

Depicting the workers class as the leading social force remains the key problem of further artistic progress. Our socialist-realist art provides broad scope for an artistic interpretation of the historical experience acquired in the worldwide class struggle between socialism and imperialism, as well as of all phenomena of real life under socialism.

The daily struggles of the workers collectives in material production, the active participation in public life and in socialist national defense, life in the family and in all other spheres--all these are subjects worthy of being treated by art and literature.

We expect further useful contributions from art and literary criticism which should promote artistic activities as such and also serve to develop the working people's understanding of the arts. Literary and art criticism, in particular, are called upon to produce a creative atmosphere characterized by lofty ideological, moral and aesthetic criteria, as well as by understanding the creative process in arts. The theoretical level and the militant spirit of art and literary criticism can considerably influence the creative artists, as well as those who enjoy art, in the spirit of our common aspirations.

Confronting our working people with new works of art, as for example during major art exhibitions but also in viewing our recent DEFA [German Film Corporation] films, is increasingly becoming a public interpretation of the spiritual needs and moral criteria of our society. The internationalist character of our arts, the friendship with the peoples of the Soviet Union and the other socialist brother countries and solidarity with all anti-imperialist forces play a role of particular importance in this connection. Equally important are those numerous works of art that sum up the historical experience of our past in an artistic interpretation and thus make an absolutely necessary contribution to socialist historical consciousness.

There are numerous efforts to expand the essence, subjects and style of artistic and literary work, as well as the traditional relations of socialist realism and thus to further develop our creative art. This process is not without contradictions, which is normal. Therefore, it is gratifying that the discussion about new achievements of arts and literature is increasingly being conducted from the point of view of the principles of socialist realism within the GDR Cultural League, the artistic unions and the trade unions. The training and promotion of a young generation of artists deserves particular attention. Our socialist youth organization, the FDJ, accomplishes tasks of particular value in this respect.

The GDR Cultural League as an organization of all those working in the field of culture and of all citizens who are interested in arts, has achieved constantly growing prestige and has a constantly growing impact. Through its activities the league contributes to spiritual and cultural life in towns and local communities. All circles related to the league by common interests and friendly relations bear great responsibility in researching, preserving and propagating cultural values.

He who wishes to master the present tasks and confidently face the future, needs to know about the experience of the past and its cultural values. The tribute we pay to men of the past, such as Lessing and Herder, Beethoven and Kleist, Semper and Schinkel, our respect for the heritage of Johannes R. Becher, Bertolt Brecht, Hans Eisler and Ernst Busch and for the militant traditions of the Union of Proletarian-Revolutionary Writers and of the Association of Revolutionary Artists of Germany--all these things demonstrate the scope of our work aimed at creatively adopting revolutionary, democratic and humanist traditions. Preparations for the festive commemorations of the anniversaries of Martin Luther, Bach, Haendel, Goethe and Schiller, are also a demonstration of our aspirations in this respect.

The construction of a monument to Marx and Engels in front of the Palace of the Republic in Berlin on Marx-Engels Square, will be of exceptional importance. It will proclaim the victory of the ideas of the founders of scientific socialism on German soil.

The building of a monument to Ernst Thaelmann in the People's Part on Penzlauer Berg in the capital of the GDR, will be devoted to the irreconcilable struggle of the German proletariat against fascist irreconcilable struggle of the German proletariat against fascist dictatorship, for our people's liberation from the Hitlerite regime and for building a new Germany. (strong applause)

The monument will tell everyone that Thaelmann's guard has remained faithful to his legacy and is now successfully leading our people in the socialist present and into the communist future.

5. Health Service Under Socialism

Comrades,

The protection of the citizens' health and the care for their well-being will remain an important part of our party's social policy throughout the eighties as well. Since the ninth party congress considerable progress has been achieved in this respect. During the 1976-80 period more financial means and efforts have been provided for medical and social care than in any other 5-year plan period of the past. Through expanding, reorganizing and building new hospitals, numerous polyclinics and outpatient centers, children's establishments, recreation homes and nursing homes, the network of health and social institutions has become much more dense and efficient. The new charity building in our capital and the erection of several large hospitals in the industrial workers centers of our country are real symbols of health care for the people. Since 1975 the number of physicians has increased by 2,084 to 33,894 in 1980; the number of dentists has increased by 1,741 to 9,709 during the same period.

Approximately 290,000 children are being taken care of in day care centers. Naturally, it is a well-known fact, that as a result of the gratifying increase in the birth rate, many young mothers are still waiting for a place in day care centers, but it is important to note that the GDR has the highest rate of such children's establishments among all countries. While in 1975 only 51 out of 100 children below the age of 3 could be given a place in day care centers, in 1980--61 children could be placed in such institutions. A total of 54,829 new day care center places have been created within those 5 years.

Regarding care for incapacitated citizens, we can say that in the last decade we have achieved a considerably higher standard in this respect. While in 1970 there were only 2,200 reserved for incapacitated people, over 30,000 new such jobs were created throughout the seventies as a result of our new social policy. More than 13,000 physically handicapped and mentally retarded children and young people are being specially trained in specialized state institutions. The work accomplished by church institutions in this respect also deserves great recognition.

The positive results of medical care as well as the successful implementation of our social policy exert a favorable impact upon the state of health of our population. The average life expectancy of citizens in our country is 69 years for men and 75 years for women. That average has increased 5 years for men and 7 years for women in our country since establishment of the republic.

Within the coming 5 years new hospitals will be commissioned and the preservation and modernization of existing health and social institutions will be continued. This should create prerequisites for a planned improvement of the medical and social care for citizens in accordance with the potential of our national economy. In doing so we are pursuing the well-tested path of particularly promoting those sectors of medical practice and providing them with more personnel sectors, which are constantly concerned with citizens and which are most frequently used by them. Rapid progress is particularly needed in big cities and in large industrial centers in order to raise the level of medical and dental care.

It depends above all upon the skill and achievements of all those engaged in the medical-research and treatment sectors, whether the citizens will have greater access to the achievements of modern medicine, whether diseases will be prevented and even more successfully treated. Medical research must increasingly take into consideration the demands raised by the increase in chronic diseases. The causes of the diseases can be removed only if biological sciences and medicine work in close cooperation and jointly resolve their problems.

The factors which increasingly determine the qualitative improvement of medical care are medical research and training, intensifying relations of mutual trust between the citizens and the health system, further developing joint work in health institutions, most expedient ways of investing financial means and efforts and good work organization. As experience shows, unjustified discrepancies in standards can be overcome through varied forms of postgraduate training of cadres, exchanges of experience and comparisons of achievements, as well as through lively scientific activity.

The work of polyclinics and outpatient centers must be organized in such a manner as to ensure that the citizen is always treated by a trusted physician of his choice. The conditions of care for patients in hospitals and the conditions of personnel employment must also be further improved.

The social care for physically and mentally disabled people must be developed even more. The attention of the state organs, enterprises and social organizations must be directed to further integrating such citizens in our society by means of expanding opportunities for medical and professional rehabilitation, by guaranteed jobs and better living and recreation conditions.

6. Development of Physical Culture and Sports

Dear comrades, sports and regular physical exercise comprehensively influence and strengthen the people's health, their joy of living, their well-being and their energy. Physical culture activities are an essential element of the universal development of the citizen's personality, of his socialist way of life. The purposeful encouragement and development of physical culture and sports remains, from this point of view, a permanent and essential component of our policy devoted to the people's well-being.

If we consider the results of sports developments since the Ninth SED Congress we can ascertain with gratification, that, upon the solid basis of our socialist society, sports for children and youth, mass sport activities and competitive sports have developed on a large scale. Physical culture and sports distinguish themselves by their mass character and their high standards. They play a great role in the lives of millions of people. An increasing number of our citizens are developing sports according to their ideas and initiatives as it suits their own needs and demands.

The German Gymnastics and Sports Federation [DTSB] has increased its social impact and attractiveness. Its influence upon the development of physical culture and sports in enterprises and combines, in cities and villages, has expanded thanks to its consolidation and strengthening and thanks to the formation of numerous new sports communities, sections and groups.

Our sportsmen and sportswomen brilliantly asserted themselves by their achievements at the Olympic Games, as well as during various worldwide and European competitions. Their successes in international sports competitions are a source of pride and joy for the working people in our country. On the whole the numerous good results in mass sports and in competitive sports impressively confirm the international reputation of the GDR as a great sports nation.

In accordance with further shaping a developed socialist society new prospects are opening for the progress of sports and physical culture. All prerequisites exist to achieve a higher standard and even greater scope in this field. We are greatly interested in involving more citizens, and in particular, more young people in regular sports activities. This must continue to be an important postulate of all social forces. The DTSB is increasingly assuming the role of an initiator and organizer in that respect.

The numerous valuable experiences and ideas acquired in recent years as to how to make participation in physical culture and sports more attractive and more varied, are of great usefulness. However, it remains a permanent task to look for new ways and means, by taking into account, at the same time, of the fact that the needs and interests of the citizens in sports are not only increasing but are developing in a more diversified manner. Our industry should intensify its efforts to better ensure the supply of sports equipment and outfits.

We are devoting particular attention to further developing children's and youth sports, above all to the further qualitative development of children's and youth spartakiades as one of the most popular forms of mass sports movements for youths. We also consider those activities valuable which are aimed at expanding existing opportunities for participation in exercises, training and competitions within the framework of sports communities and sports associations; at promoting the activities of general sports groups; at encouraging hiking and jogging activities and at expanding sports activities in the newly developed residential areas of the cities.

We are convinced that the preparations for the Seventh Gymnastics and Sports Festival and the Ninth Children's and Youth Spartakiade of the GDR, scheduled to take place in Leipzig in 1983, will prove to be a strong mobilizing factor. We will continue to further rely upon the great industriousness and zest for achievement of our sportsmen and women. We will further rely upon the increasing skill and great dedication of their coaches and functionaries in the struggle for great sports achievements, which serve the cause of peace and socialism. (strong applause)

V. The Increasing Role of the Socialist State. The Policy of Alliance of the Workers Class Party

1. The Further Comprehensive Consolidation of the Socialist State

Comrades,

During the period under review, our party did everything within its power to further consolidate the socialist workers' and peasants' state. We have purposefully seen to it that the role of the state as the main tool of the working people, led by the workers class, should be further developed. In all social spheres, we have consistently implemented the Leninist principle of democratic centralism, in particular by establishing a close connection between the central state leadership and planning and the working people's creative activities.

We highly appreciate the fact that the relations of people's assemblies' deputies with their constituents are becoming increasingly intensive and livelier. The deputies increasingly seek personal contacts and, together with the GDR National Front committees, adopt new initiatives. The even closer relations between deputies and their workers collectives have contributed to the creation of ever improving prerequisites for their creative participation in People's Assembly sessions and the permanent committees.

Based on the party program, we also consolidated the socialist legal order according to plan. Among the 74 laws approved by the People's Chamber since the Ninth SED Congress, the labor code is particularly significant. It was adopted, after broad discussion, at the proposal of the Ninth FDGB Congress. As the Magna Carta of labor, this code has further developed the right to work as a fundamental human right, and has expanded the rights of the trade unions. Through constructive participation in working out international conventions and in concluding bilateral treaties, the GDR actively participates in promoting, further developing and complementing the norms of international law.

The socialist state embodies the political power of the workers class, the class of cooperative farmers and other working people who are allied with it. The socialist state will continue, also throughout the eighties, to play the role of a factor guaranteeing that the great goals will be achieved, the goals which our party is formulating in the interest and to the benefit of the working people. In implementing its economic-organization and cultural-educational functions, in foreign policy and in ensuring the protection of the workers' and peasants' power, the state has important tasks to accomplish. Its further, comprehensive consolidation remains an issue of crucial importance for our future policy as well.

The socialist state power, under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party, its prestige and its capability to function are the basis and prerequisite for successful progress.

This is and remains the basic question of the socialist revolution. Only the political power of the workers class guarantees the people's freedom in establishing for all citizens living conditions which conform to human dignity, as well as guarantee the freedom of the individual. Our state as a form of proletarian dictatorship represents the interests of the entire people and guarantee freedom and human rights. No one has ever been, or will ever be, allowed to encroach upon the socialist state. (stormy applause)

The power of workers and peasants, as we know, is of a profoundly democratic nature. It is a true people's power. Socialist democracy is the main trend along which the state power will continue to develop in our country. It guarantees the broadest involvement of the working people in the leadership of social processes, and particularly in state management. This is why we concentrate our efforts on an ever increasing cooperation of state organs and social organizations with the workers collectives, and on the multifarious activities of the working people in all spheres of life.

In future we also expect a great deal from the vital strength of the people's assemblies and from the activities of their deputies. The People's Chamber, which is the highest organ of power in the state, must further develop its character as a working institution in preparing the laws, as well as in implementing them and exerting control over them. We support the effort to focus even more thoroughly the work of deputies and committees on summing up the most valuable experience in implementing the laws they have adopted.

It is important to develop the strength of local people's assemblies in a purposeful manner, to use the great political and professional experience of the deputies. What counts most is the contribution of the people's assemblies and their councils, as members of the unified state power, toward implementing the main task of a coordinated economic and social policy. In accomplishing this task, planning and consistency in the activities of the people's assemblies are as important as a closeness to reality and an attentive treatment of the citizens' suggestions and justified criticism.

Utmost importance must be assigned to carefully handling the petitions. Irresponsibility, indifference and heartlessness vis-a-vis citizens are incompatible with the nature of our worker-peasant state. Purposeful and creative propaganda work, which makes the individual familiar with the policy of our party and government and with the communal tasks and plans, makes the ties between the elected and the electorate even more close. At the same time it promotes the readiness to cooperate.

In their leadership work our state organs have to learn how to better master the interlacing of the manifold processes in the economy, science, in the social and cultural fields as well as in national defense. Improving analytical work and still more farsightedly shaping leadership work in accordance with the growing demands are indispensible prerequisites. This applies to the work of the Council of Ministers and its organs and to the local state organs as well.

Undoubtedly, the management and planning of the territorial development increasingly gain importance in further intensifying the economic reproduction process. What matters is to guarantee in the given territory the correct ratio between work, education possibilities, living and recreation conditions and to the care for and supply of the citizens. Each state organ, irrespective of its level, must take into account that all decisions in the bezirke, kreise, cities and communities, and, in particular, decisions concerning investments, cause long-term effects. Therefore, these decisions must always be oriented toward the requirements of the subsequent development phases.

The working people who perform great achievements expect the development of trade and supply, of services, housing economy, commuter traffic, culture and sport, as well as of health and social care in the territory to proceed according to plan.

Here a great deal depends on the quality of the management of enterprises and sectors which are subordinated to the local organs and on the management's implementation of its coordinating function.

All local state organs in cities and communities should provide creative stimuli for cooperating with the management of combines, combine enterprises and collectives. Such cooperation must be efficiently organized and aimed at attaining highest efficiency. With the help of territorial rationalization, new reserves must be uncovered to enhance the performance of all enterprises and improve the working and living conditions of the citizens. The community associations may intensify their work to this end but the responsibility and the rights of the cities and communities united in these associations must be strictly observed.

The task has become urgent to review the responsibility of the local state organs on the individual leadership levels and exactly define the law on the local peoples assemblies and their organs in accordance with the new level of development.

It is obvious that the higher demands posed on the state organs also give rise to considerations concerning the further qualification of cadres. Along with improving basic and advanced education, prerequisites must be created to prepare tested production workers for responsible state functions. Moreover, it is necessary to simplify work in the state apparatus and make it more efficient, demands for information voiced by the superordinate organs must be reduced. Only in this way can the greater tasks be mastered without increasing the staff. A prime aim of the rationalization of administration must be to reduce unnecessary troubles of the citizens in their dealings with the state organs and handle their petitions more expeditiously.

Of course, an effective leadership of the state includes an exact control. The Worker and Peasant Inspectorate (ABI), as the most comprehensive state and social control organ of the GDR, contributes with good results to developing economic resources, eliminating shortcomings and overcoming obstacles in the citizens' everyday life. The ABI organs should use their rights in an even more consistent way, when they come across irresponsibility, sloppiness and bureaucracy in work.

Socialist law protects the achievements of the GDR working people against all attacks of the class enemy. At the same time law and legality are closely linked with developing truly socialist relations among men and with solving the economic tasks. The more responsible the citizens are in fulfilling their legal obligations vis-a-vis society and the more conscientiously their rights are safeguarded, the more honesty and sense of responsibility, safety and performance are stimulated. Great attention is paid to strictly observing those laws which pertain to the activity of enterprises, combines and state organs, an activity aimed at promoting an economic management designed to attain greater efficiency, an increase in achievements and the protection of the people's property.

Our party is determined to further strengthen law and legality. We especially welcome the initiatives of many work collectives which--within the movement for exemplary order, discipline and security--struggle successfully to preserve and protect everything that has been achieved. The activities of many citizens are welcomed who increasingly and publicly oppose violations of the law. By strictly observing city and community ordinances which regulate important aspects of the citizens' communal life, safety, legality and cleanliness are guaranteed. This also requires that each violation of law be followed by an adequate reaction. From the organs of the judiciary--whose responsible work is recognized by the working people--we expect an even greater contribution to strengthening national security, preventing crimes and educating punishable citizens.

Proceeding from the demands of the future the socialist legal order must be constantly improved. This also means to review or newly formulate such laws and other legal rules which are no longer in accordance with the level of development.

2. The Role and Tasks of Trade Unions

Dear comrades, with its almost 9 million members, the FDGB is making an important contribution to shaping the developed socialist society and to the overall strengthening of our socialist country. From the rostrum of the 10th party congress we want to express warm thanks to the largest class organization in our country. (loud, prolonged applause)

The trade unions have always fulfilled their duties as our party's faithful comrades in arms. On the basis of the GDR Constitution and the Work Law, they now enjoy rights they never enjoyed before throughout the history of the German trade union movement. Through the trade unions as a broad mass organization of the ruling workers class and as the organization of the owners of the means of production, millions of working people are directly participating in the management and planning of social processes. They are daily participating in shaping the socialist democracy. The trade unions guide socialist competition and especially further those initiatives that aim at a steep increase in labor productivity, high efficiency and quality. They channel the working people's creativity toward speeding up scientific-technical progress.

Comradely cooperation, mutual assistance and an innovative and collective spirit characterize their work which contributes to turning the best achievements into social norms. All this is aimed at increasing the potential of our national economy and enabling us to meet the requirements of the eighties.

In accordance with their position in our society, the trade unions show particular interest in carefully managing state-owned property and our country's riches. The thinking and actions of the working people is increasingly determined by the following simple truths: One can only consume what has been produced, and no one can live at the expense of others. For this it is decisive to constantly improve the people's working and living conditions. An extensive field of activity opens up for the trade unions in the process of meeting the working people's increasing requirements for a high-level cultural life and for rich leisure time entertainment and rest. Proper attention should be paid to the movement: "To work, learn and live in a socialist manner."

This shows the trade unions' extensive interests in further shaping and developing the socialist society. The more actively the trade unions fulfill their duties the more will their great authority among people continue to develop. Our trade unions act as schools of socialism in the spirit of Leninism.

They play a great role in disseminating Marxism-Leninism among millions of nonparty members. They make an essential contribution to furthering the working people's class position and anti-imperialist solidarity and enabling the workers class to successfully fulfill its leading role in our society. In this respect the "schools of socialist work," which are attended by some 3 million working people, have proved to be effective.

We hold the diligent social work performed by numerous honorary trade union officials in high esteem, especially the work performed by the trade union shop stewards in enterprises. They are entitled to full support from our party organizations always and everywhere. It is an honor for each comrade to be a good trade union member. (loud, prolonged applause)

3. On the SED's Policy on Women

Dear comrades, every day anew women and girls in our country prove the lofty social value of their equality at their workplaces, in the family and in bringing up and looking after children. We feel sincere satisfaction with the fact that during the period covered by my report a number of measures became effective aimed at considerably improving the work and living conditions of 4.7 million working, learning or studying women and particularly protecting the mother and child. As the party program stipulates, those prerequisites and conditions were further developed which enable women to fulfill their professional duties and those of a mother as a member of our socialist society with an equal status.

The real progress in women's professional and social activity, their increasing share in filling responsible state and economic positions and the continuously increasing birth-rate testify to the high level of equal rights and conditions in our republic that characterize our daily life. No one grasps this achievement of socialism more forcefully than women themselves. This shows their increasing determination to make a greater contribution to our overall social development. What women and girls actually contribute today to our country's social progress is much more than just diligence and skill. What they contribute is professional and political knowledge and skill and courage and confidence in their own capabilities and strength.

Precisely for that reason it is now very important for our party leadership, the management of trade unions and women's organizations and the leading state and economic bodies to fully capitalize on those social and individual values which were created along with equality, to stimulate the women's will to contribute to a greater extent to further shaping the developed socialist society. In other words: In the interest of new successes, it is also necessary for women to apply and more consciously develop what we have already achieved.

4. The Role of the GDR National Front and the SED's Relations With Friendly Parties

Comrades! The GDR and all our successes and achievements are the joint work of the workers class--the leading class in our socialist society--the class of agricultural cooperative members, the socialist intelligentsia and the other working strata which form a broad united alliance. The creation and development of this alliance is one of the SED's most significant historic achievements. In this respect we also follow the universally valid laws of the socialist revolution in keeping with the concrete historic conditions in our country.

Karl Marx's idea that, when it takes over power, the proletariat also frees the entire society from exploitation and oppression, has been proved in reality. Thus, under the leadership of the workers class and its Marxist-Leninist party, all categories of the people are directly interested in building the new society. They are interested in making extensive use of the possibilities offered by socialism to creatively contribute to and participate in the state's management.

Our party's alliance policy is politically and effectively reflected in the close cooperation between parties and mass organizations within the democratic bloc and within the GDR National Front, as well as in other social areas. This confident cooperation has shown good results in the process of implementing the ninth party congress decisions. We will continue to apply the principle according to which each citizen, irrespective of his social origin, religious creed or outlook on life has the broadest possibilities to actively contribute to shaping the developed socialist society.

Our party's relations with the Democratic Peasants' Party of Germany, with the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, with the Liberal Democratic Party of Germany and with the National Democratic Party of Germany are strong and trustful. Our friendly parties have a stable position in our society. Their members are making their own contribution to our joint socialist cause. We highly value the constructive and proven contribution of our alliance partners, which is also reflected in numerous proposals and obligations connected with the 10th party congress. Our close cooperation will continue to prove itself, and it is characterized by long term prospects. (loud applause)

It can be noted that the process of bringing classes and strata closer together proceeds along the line of the ideals cherished by the workers class. The most important driving force in this increasing political-moral unity of our people is the common interest in our society's development for the benefit of the people's well-being and in the interest of peace.

Our alliance policy clearly reflects our socialist democracy. There are favorable prerequisites for all our people's strata to more efficiently participate in the fulfillment of all social tasks. As a socialist popular movement, the National Front has recorded positive achievements in this respect in the past years. The National Front committees now encompass 340,000 GDR citizens who belong to all parties or are nonparty members. They closely cooperate with the elected people's representatives, with enterprises, cooperatives and other establishments, with craftsmen and tradesmen. They conduct discussions about current domestic and foreign policy questions and, in the interest of our citizens, devote their activity to improving work and living conditions in residential areas, to embellishing cities and villages and to promoting intellecutal-cultural and sports activities. The socialist popular movement thus helps increase the citizens' interests.

The competition named "contribute to more beautiful cities and villages" has become a positive tradition. One can say that all our people are participating in it. With annually increasing and noteworthy achievements, our people also show their attachment to the socialist fatherland. In the interval between 1 January 1976 and 13 December 1980, millions of diligent citizens contributed to the maintenance of housing worth 10.6 billion marks, to the renovation free of charge of 533,500 dwellings for elderly and handicapped people and to the redecoration of 467,600 rooms in educational, health, social and cultural establishments. Our national economy was able to retrieve from households more than 1.21 million tons of used paper and 1.7 million tons of scrap metal. Excellent achievements were also attained in many other areas.

Our party will make every effort to continue to develop the trustful cooperation with the National Front, and will contribute to strengthening its committees from a political and ideological viewpoint. Great responsibility in this respect devolves on our leading party bodies in kreise, cities and villages and in residential areas.

The next political climax for all social forces united within the GDR National Front will be the election of deputies to the GDR People's Assembly and to the bezirk conferences on 14 June 1981. We will prepare them in the spirit of applying and implementing the 10th party congress decisions, and turn them into a new manifestation of our people's unity and closeness. (prolonged, lively applause)

During the interval covered by this report, the relationship between the socialist state and the church continued to develop on the basis of the principle of separate state and church. Our relations have become more open, understanding and favoring constructive arrangements. The basis for the further development of objective and understanding relations in keeping with our constitution was set during the meeting between the chairman of the GDR State Council and the head of the conference of the GDR evangelical churches on 6 March 1978. The same applies to the talks with the head of the Berlin bishop conference of 15 January 1981. This policy has proved itself and we will continue it in future.

5. The Tasks of the Country's Defense. The Reliable Protection of the Worker-Peasant Power

Dear Comrades, our socialist state power is also dutybound to effectively protect the construction and achievements of socialism against any attack by its enemies. We can rightly claim that the efforts made by our state in this respect are supported by all our people.

Considering its responsibility for preserving the peace and security of the socialist community, the GDR, as a Warsaw Pact member country, strengthens the combativeness and unity of that socialist military coalition. The National People's Army, the GDR Border Troops, the Ministry of State Security, the German People's Police and the other bodies of the Ministry of the Interior, the combat groups of the workers class and the forces of civil defense have honorably fulfilled the ninth party congress tasks. (prolonged loud applause) They have reliably protected the socialist achievements and guarded the state borders.

They have disclosed many peace-threatening and antisocialist plans of the imperialist opponents, and thwarted their subversive machinations.

As close comrades in arms with the armed forces and the defensive and security organs of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries, they make an essential contribution to preserving and stabilizing peace. Therefore, we want to express heartfelt warm thanks to the sons and daughters of our people wearing the honorable uniform of our National People's Army, and to those in all defensive and security organs. (prolonged lively applause)

The GDR Constitution and defense law embody the highest principle of our socialist military and security policy; namely, to do everything we can to reliably safeguard socialism and peace. Greater dangers arise from the increasing imperialist aggressiveness and because of the exacerbation of the international situation caused by the United States and NATO. To make peace durable, it is necessary to strengthen our defense capability. This requires increased combativeness, greater readiness for action and preparedness for battle on the part of our National People's Army and our defensive and security organs.

All leading state and economic bodies must take into consideration the requirements for the country's defense and for guaranteeing security and order. A great deal is expected from our citizens' will to act and readiness to make sacrifices for the military defense of the socialist fatherland and for preserving peace.

The further development of the readiness and capability of the citizens for the country's defense, each one's responsibility for strengthening the state's security, for the observance and application of the socialist laws, for a high degree of order and discipline, as well as for strengthening revolutionary vigilance are all important tasks in the party's political-ideological activity. Therefore, socialist defense education should aim at strengthening the conviction of all citizens, especially the youth, that it is necessary to defend the socialist fatherland. Their defense capability is to be improved by purposely organized training. In this respect, the society for sports and technology, as an organization for promoting military preparedness, continues to have a great task to fulfill.

In continuing the socialist revolution, it is a class duty of our National People's Army and our defense and security organs to defend the socialist order and the peaceful life of the GDR citizens, and of all states of the socialist community, against any attacks by the aggressive imperialist and reactionary forces. It is also their class duty to guarantee the GDR's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders and state security. Shoulder to shoulder with the comrades in arms of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries, they must be ready and capable at all times to fulfill this duty. The main source of their force and strength, and of the unconditional faith and trustworthiness of all armed men serving the GDR, is the leadership by the Marxist-Leninist party of the workers class.

For all members of the National People's Army, and for the defense and security organs, unity with the people is a guarantee for success in their activity. Socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism determine their thinking and actions. Under the leadership of the SED, the National People's Army has developed as a modern, socialist army. This has been proved by the "Comradeship in Arms-80" joint maneuvers and the "Soyuz-81" joint staff maneuvers.

The National People's Army must continue to increase its combat power and readiness for action. Those advantages which are only characteristic of socialist armies and which stem from the class nature of our armed forces must be consistently stressed. They are especially noticeable in a high class awareness and in all-round developed and strengthened socialist relations.

What is decisive is the leading and training of people. What unites them are precise military requirements coupled with attentive conduct toward military members and comradely care for their concerns. This requires the most modern achievements of science and a high quality of military training.

Greater demands rest upon the selection of cadres, upon their class awareness, their capabilities, knowledge and skill, and upon their basic and advanced training. The organizational framework of overall military life and the conscious discipline of all army members must stand the test of strict standards, since military service is an important stage in communist education and in shaping socialist personalities.

Our party and the working people in our country have always ensured modern weaponry and new combat and command technology for our armed forces. Thus they were in a position to keep abreast of military development and to contribute toward preventing NATO from achieving military superiority.

It is the duty of all members of the armed forces to excellently master military technology. This means consciously taking into account the qualitatively increasing requirements in the relationship of the soldier to military technology both in the field of training and of leading troops. A higher qualification is needed in the leading activity of commanders, of political organs and staffs to cope with the deep changes in all areas of the military system. This includes participation in further developing Marxist-Leninist teaching about warfare and the armed forces, and firm rejection of revisionist concepts and falsifications.

The basic organizations in the army have considerably increased their influence in all aspects of political and military life. In the interest of a high level of combat strength and readiness for action, they especially channel their efforts toward the class education and ideological tempering of all army members, mastering military technology, strengthening individual leadership and developing socialist relations in all collectives.

Our party has done a great deal for the planned improvement in the service and living conditions of our army, especially of our professional soldiers. This will continue to be an important task in the future as well. As heretofore, the members of the People's Army and the Border Troops, who guarantee our socialist fatherland's defense and the security of our state borders, will continue to be entitled to special attention.

The workers class and all GDR people are proud of their army. The achievements in defense, especially the responsible duties of our professional soldiers, are creditable and they deserve great social esteem and appreciation. What will continue to be important in the future is to support our people's sons who serve in our socialist armed forces and comprehensively strengthen the unity between people and army. (stormy applause)

VI. The Party--The Leading Force in Building the Developed Socialist Society

1. The SED's Leading Role and Further Strengthening Its Relations With the Masses

Dear comrades, our party has sprung from the people and it serves the people. It consistently struggles to meet the interests of the workers class and all working people. It is the leading force in shaping the developed socialist society. As envisaged in the party program and as confirmed in practice, the party's overall activity is devoted to the people's well-being and happiness and it is aimed at purposefully, exemplarily and steadfastly leading the millions of builders of the new society. This makes the communists' struggle and life meaningful.

Here at our 10th party congress we are fully entitled to say that SED has stood the tests of the class struggle in the past years as well. (prolonged loud applause) Our party has completely fulfilled its duties regarding the political leadership of social processes. It has always worked out a scientific strategy and tactics in keeping with the revolutionary world process and universally valid development laws and in accordance with our concrete conditions for struggle, by taking into consideration the experience gained by the fraternal parties. Being linked to the masses and on the basis of the revolutionary upsurge of its large collective, it has consistently implemented this policy.

From the bottom of our hearts we want to express thanks to all comrades, men and women, for their struggle to implement the party's goals and for their untiring and responsible work, work that is rich in initiatives. (prolonged stormy applause)

The party's constantly enhanced leading role in all social areas is an objective requirement. Thus the political stability and the dynamism of socialism is guaranteed. Thus the creativity of the working people is guided toward a goal and along a chosen road at a given development stage. During the period covered by this report, the Central Committee did all it could to meet these requirements. This is proved by what was envisaged for the implementation of the ninth party congress decisions and for the solution of those problems that have since arisen in our life.

Our party's constant ideological and organizational development, its further leading role and its alliance policy are important signs of the strengthening of our worker-peasant power. The revolutionary characteristics of our workers class as a ruling class, its increasing political maturity, its internationalist and patriotic position in combating imperialism and bourgeois ideology, its outlook on life and professional training, as well as its capability to lead, plan and shape our socialist society will be considerably more noticeable in the coming period. This leads to the conclusion that the leading role of our Marxist-Leninist party and its inspiring and organizational potential should be channeled to a greater extent in the direction of leading the development processes in a complex manner and by looking ahead.

How much our party's strength in combat has increased is clearly shown by the party election in basic organizations that preceded the party congress and the delegates' conferences, as well as by the individual talks that were conducted with all communists during the check of party documents. They proved a high level of internal party democracy and convincingly demonstrated the communists' capability of and their determination to struggle to implement our party's policy, which is actively supported by our working masses.

The SED is the party of revolutionary actions. It embodies the conformity of revolutionary theory with practice, of word and deed. Based on constantly listening to the opinion of the working people and on their extensive experience, the party is leading the masses by teaching them and also learning from them. This explains why our party enjoys so much confidence among our people.

2. The Unity and Closeness of the Party, Its Further Political-Ideological and Organizational Strengthening

Comrades, the unshakable basis for our party's activity is the ideological and organizational unity and its closed ranks. Through the increased combat power of the party organizations, through the communists' active and selfless activity and their close and trustful relations with the masses, it gains an increasingly higher quality.

Today our militant league totals 2,172,110 members and candidate members. With its 79,668 basic organizations and sectional party organizations, the party is strongly represented in all areas of our social life. In the period since the ninth party congress 351,953 new militants have joined our party ranks. What has to be stressed in particular is the influx of young people. This was clearly reflected by the FDJ initiative in honor of the 10th party congress when more than 75,000 members of the socialist youth organization joined our party. (loud applause) We are sure that these young comrades, men and women, will further strengthen our party's combat strength and actively contribute to implementing the 10th party congress decisions.

The fact that our party has further strengthened its social composition is in keeping with its nature as a conscious and organized vanguard of the working people. The workers' share totals 57.6 percent; that share has constantly developed and has reached the highest level since the creation of the SED.

Of the 263,920 workers, who have been accepted into party ranks as candidates since the ninth party congress, 241,423 are directly active in the area of material production. A total of 77.1 percent of our members and candidate members from industry and construction are active in the centrally led combines.

A total of 21.9 percent of the GDR's professional people are members of the SED. What must be stressed in particular is the fact that an increasing number of scientists, artists, physicians and pedagogues view the party as their political homeland. In the interval since the ninth party congress, more than 34,000 members of the intelligentsia applied for party membership. At present our party has 480,970 intellectuals as members of the party. This includes 125,000 engineers and economists, 117,000 teachers and pedagogues, as well as 19,000 cultural workers. By increasing women's share 2.4 percent compared with the ninth party congress, one-third of all members and candidate members are now women.

Of the candidate members who were accepted following the ninth party congress, 269,789 are under 25. A total of 42.5 percent of all party members and candidate members are under 40. In its age structure, too, our party looks to the future. In keeping with the Leninist principle of individually selecting and accepting candidates, the party's political activity is aimed at creating an active communist nucleus in all working collectives, without considerably increasing the number of party members. We continue to strive to strengthen the party as to its class composition in chosen areas of social life, especially in the national economy. Thus we will ensure the party's healthy development in keeping with its role and nature.

We can state that the communists' educational standard has also improved. A total of 34.1 percent of all party members and candidate members have graduated from high or vocational schools. In the case of party secretaries that share totals 64.5 percent. The share of leadership members in basic organizations with party training of not less than 3 months increased from 55.5 percent to 66.1 percent after the ninth party congress. In the central party leadership in industry and large construction combines, 82.2 percent of the leadership members and 88.6 percent of the party secretaries have had party schooling.

Comrades, the party election has clearly shown that our party's unity and close ranks are in particular based on its uniform ideology. It is commendable that the elected leadership continues to view ideological activity as the essence of comprehensive party activity. As laid down in our party program Marxism-Leninism constitutes the solid theoretical foundation of our entire activity. That will remain so as each new step forward is taken on the road of socialist revolution in the GDR. Historic experience proves that only on the basis of this scientific teaching, of its creative development and its application to the concrete conditions in each country will it be possible to successfully lead the revolutionary struggle for the interests of the workers class and of all working people.

The teaching of Marx, Engels and Lenin is the only science that permits us to understand and consciously shape the past, present and future. Without it no one has been able to eliminate exploitation and create the basis for a new social order let alone to build the developed socialist society. "Patterns" for a "new" socialism, no matter where they originated, have always proved unsuitable, irrespective of how strongly they were promoted by Western mass media.

Without any change, Lenin's concept that there is no third road between bourgeois and socialist ideology is still valid today. Our party adheres to that concept in each situation of building socialism and in the international class struggle. (prolonged applause) Loyalty to Marxism-Leninism means loyalty to truth and science, it means grasping the objective laws of social development and its revolutionary use in the interest of the working people. (lively applause)

It has been and still is the banner of Marxism-Leninism under which the Russian workers, peasants and soldiers were able to erect the first victorious dictatorship of the proletariat and lead socialism to victory; it is this banner under which the Soviet people progress in building communism, under which real socialism turned into a world system spreading its influence all over the globe. It has been and still is this banner under which millions of communists on all continents struggle against imperialism and war, for national liberation and social progress, for a world without exploitation and oppression and for socialism.

The teaching of Marx, Engels and Lenin has become the most powerful cultural force of our time although over and over again its enemies declare it to be outdated, obsolete and even dead. On the other hand bourgeois ideology in all its aspects reflects the profound crisis of the capitalist system. The historic failure of that ideology, which spreads fear of the future, denies any social progress and gives birth to a wild anti-communist hysteria, has been confirmed.

The Marxist-Leninist theory, the basis for new victories in our cause, has been confirmed a thousandfold in the fire of class struggle and in the process of resolving the problems of building socialism. It is the only one that permits people to correctly understand the complicated issues of domestic and foreign policy, to hold positions that befit the interests of the workers class and struggle for the just goals of all working people.

Our party paid great attention to the ideological education of its members and to the schooling and advanced schooling of its cadres during the interval covered by this report. A total of 3,376 comrades, men and women, studied at the "Karl Marx" party high school of the SED Central Committee from 1976-80. A total of 500,195 comrades, men and women, participated in the courses of the "Karl Liebknecht" party school at the SED Central Committee, of party schools in bezirk and kreis leaderships. One hundred thousand propagandists assisted--in the various forms of the party school year--a total of 1.5 million members and candidate members and some 200,000 non-party members in thoroughly acquiring our Marxist outlook on life and delving more deeply into the dialectics of our domestic and foreign policy.

The words: "Knowledge is power" is the beginning of the workers movement. It has long since been proved that more than knowledge is needed for the workers-peasant power. However it is true that the workers class and its allies need thorough political and professional knowledge to exercise their power. It depends on the communists' ideological clarity, on their ability to convince on their knowledge and revolutionary enthusiasm how well the entire workers class and all our people are mobilized for the party policy and to implement our program. At the same time, it is necessary to educate our cadres to become steadfast, develop a lofty sense of responsibility, have a militant attitude toward work, energetically promote what is new and show tactfulness when dealing with the working people.

An important contribution in this respect devolves on party courses. Circles, seminars and lecture cycles should better serve the acquisition of a realistic and creative Marxist-Leninist theory and a grasp of our party's policy and history. The task of studies and discussions is to improve people's familiarity with the basic social problems of our time and to commendably struggle to implement our party decisions. On the basis of free exchange of opinions, it is necessary to arm all participants with convincing arguments for mass political work. In this respect, the leadership of the party organizations must grant the necessary assistance to propagandists. Here again we need better cooperation between Marxist-Leninist sociologists and propagandists.

We commend the fact that exemplary comrades are also active as propagandists in the FDJ school year. Youth likes clear language from the party. Young people need the advice and experience of the communists. Of particular importance for the young generation are discussions on the party program.

The more the Marxist-Leninist party is united--showing closed ranks on the basis of our common scientific outlook on the world--the better it will play its role as revolutionary vanguard of the workers class and of all our people. Greater awareness, ideological steadfastness and a revolutionary spirit characterize the communist who engages all his efforts for peace, socialism and the people's well-being.

3. Further Improvement in the Level of Leadership Activity and Development of a Mass-Related Work Style of the Party Organs

Dear comrades, as is known, our party leadership organs have repeatedly proved both scientific foresight and the capability to mobilize the masses' energies with a view to fulfilling current tasks. Their decisions demonstrate the motive power of collective thinking within the party, their increased theoretical knowledge and analytical acitvity.

The progress that has been recorded in leadership style by our leading party organs is reflected in their increasing ability to cope with objective requirements under any circumstances through clear, realistic and constructive action, of focusing on what is new, of capitalizing on the masses' experience and promoting their creativity and desire for action. These qualities are noticeable in the ideological and organizational tempering of the party ranks and in deepening the trustful relations with all working people.

The political leadership of social processes by the party is to be further improved especially along three main lines:

First--high quality and efficiency of leadership activity will be achieved whenever implementation of Central Committee decisions is uniformly and firmly ensured down to party groups and each working collective. Complexity, collectivity and personal responsibility, inner party democracy, an active party life, unconditioned loyality to decisions and continuing party control are elements that in the current organization of party work, play a greater role than ever before.

Second--The decisive battlefield for the party's and each communist's revolutionary action is and will continue to be the economy. Therefore, the party leadership organs must bring about initiatives and actions that will ensure much greater efficiency. This includes constant analysis and general application of directly applicable leadership and work experience.

Third--Strengthening the political awareness of the working people and their revolutionary attitude, promoting their activity and efficiency and their moral and intellectual-cultural qualities requires a high level of party work and mass activity. Overall political-ideological acitivity can be measured by its mobilizing influence on the people's thinking and conscious action toward socialism. What is decisive is the manner in which the communists spread the party word among the masses, how they cope with the focal points of life, how well informed they are of the people's mood and opinions and how they support that which brings about progress.

Thorough and responsible discussion of the measures that follow from the Central Committee decisions and the report on how they are being implemented are an essential prerequisite for always having leadership decisions correspond to what is necessary for further social development in a given area. Of great importance in that respect is to discuss things with the party aktiv.

It is not by accident that we speak of a "high skill of leadership." The art of leadership can be acquired only in coordination with great skill, and to demonstrate such skill means--and will also mean in the future--above all to guarantee, at each step forward that the unity of party and people is unrelentingly fortified and consolidated.

Above all, the key to such achievements lies in a party style of work which is closely linked to practical life; it lies in comradely relations with all citizens and in an accurate awareness of all their feelings and emotions.

To approach people with a feeling of respect, to understand them and be understood by them--these are the decisive factors of the communists' political work. Whoever exercises a responsible function in our party, state or economic sector will respect the opinion of the workers, will display a sensitive reaction to the citizens' wishes, will be quick in perceiving any signals, will promptly and carefully react to proposals, as well as to critical remarks of the working people, and will implement solutions wherever they are possible and necessary. Poor routine work, bureaucratic narrowmindedness, arrogance and lack of consideration in dealing with human beings must be alien to such officials. The activities of the party control commissions also increasingly contribute toward applying such a correct approach.

This is based on the fact that detailed information imparted to the communists and working people considerably contributes to improving the grasp of all tasks and problems of our time. It has always paid to be well informed about the superiority of our just cause, so that we may explain the situation as it is even in periods of complications, and not just gloss over the existing difficulties.

A revolutionary must be capable of politically convincing the masses, and at the same time he must be a master in organizing his work. With his professional skill, his modesty and impeccable personal behavior, the party functionary wins and preserves the trust of the working people within the workers collective, in his residential area or in other places, and even increases this trust.

Comrades,

It is through purposeful and practical work with the cadres, and through the training of new revolutionary officials, that social development is being considerably influenced. The history of our successful struggle proves that cadres are the most precious asset of the party. It is a most important task to carefully preserve this asset, and now that the demands are increasing, to carefully promote these cadres. Tested cadres as well as young cadres, full of drive and energy, have been working for many years and decades, and are now working in all sectors of life. They are unshakably at the side of the workers' class, supporting our party's decisions. They act in the spirit of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism. The majority of them have acquired great experience in material production, coming from the ranks of the socialist youth organization.

History teaches us that questions of cadres are and remain questions of class, and that the cadres' work is a class assignment. We will continue to make it our base to further consolidate the leading role of the workers class and of its Marxist-Leninist party in schooling cadres who are familiar with the life and sphere of activity of the workers on the basis of their own experience, and who selflessly act on behalf of the workers' class.

The party must increasingly concentrate its efforts on training a greater number of women and youths for responsible functions, and it must train party functionaires from the ranks of the socialist youth organization and from the ranks of the most outstanding workers and economic cadres, party functionaries who will guarantee the continuity of party leadership within the bezirk, kreis and basic party organizations.

4. The Increasing Role of Basic Organizations and the Perfection of Inner-Party Life

Dear comrades,

The basic party organizations have developed as centers of political activities and of trustful relations with the working people. They are increasingly distinguishing themselves as organizers in implementing our party line for a well coordinated economic and social policy. The organizational level of the party is an important prerequisite for this.

In the metallurgical industry sector, for example, this level has reached 32.9 percent; in the coal mining and power supply sector it is 23.5 percent; in the chemical industry sector it is 22.3 percent; and in the machine-building and vehicle industry it is 20.6 percent.

Party members' meetings and the practical work of party groups to a great extent determine the quality of inner-party life, as well as the atmosphere of political awareness and working enthusiasm on the part of the working collectives. The closer the party groups are to the masses, the higher the combat strength and prestige of the entire party organization.

In all those places where the party leadership regularly assesses the results of work in implementing party decisions, where criticism and self-criticism are openly exercised, where the opinion of the comrades is taken seriously, inner-party democracy can freely expand. The work of the basic party organizations on implementing the militant programs is an eloquent example of this.

The party organizations in combines and in their enterprises enjoy favorable conditions for accomplishing their tasks. This is where the workers class and the great strength of the party are most strikingly concentrated. In the struggle for great national economic achievements, the work of the councils of party secretaries--where all basic party organizations of the combine enterprises should be represented--assumes increasing importance. The effectiveness and the force of attraction, as well as the impact of this work should be further increased.

As our experience shows, honorary work, its forms and methods have developed well. The party secretaries, 97 percent of whom are performing their functions on an honorary basis, have a great share in this.

The fact that over 1 million comrades are exercising elective functions within the party, the people's assemblies, the mass organizations, the National Front committees and other social organizations is also a visible expression of the effectiveness of Lenin's norms of party life. Over 1.2 million members and candidate members who have assumed party assignments, which they have to account for, are thus contributing to implementing party decisions in various social spheres.

The worth of our motto "Where there is a comrade, there is the party!" is determined by how well party members and officials match their words to deeds and how they achieve conformity between conviction and behavior. Their class position, their loyalty to the ideals of Marxism-Leninism, their internationalist position, their position of solidarity and their own contribution to strengthening our economic potential are very important in motivating the working people to do their best for the overall strengthening of the GDR. Therefore, each basic organization must "strive to raise the name and reputation of party members higher and higher." (Footnote: Lenin: Second SDAPR [Social Democratic Workers Party of Russia] Party Congress, Second Speech During the Discussion on Party Status; Works: Berlin 1956, volume 6, page 503)

V. Increasing the Influence of Ideological Work on the Masses

Dear comrades, being very proud of the achievements attained by their socialist fatherland, the working people let themselves be guided more and more by the ideas of socialism. The complete commitment to the masses, as our party's overall policy proves, and the strict observance of the principle of continuous open discussions with the working people on questions concerning our domestic and foreign policy have yielded gratifying results. Thus, the attachment and trust between the party and people is greater now. This is reflected in the increased activity carried out by the working people through which they declare their faith to the party's policy and strive to successfully implement this policy.

The working people's great zest for achievements reflects the results of effective political-ideological work which has essentially contributed toward making the correct combat positions prevail.

It is clearly obvious what a great advantage it is for socialism to be able to rely on the masses' conscious and free initiatives and on their active participation in exercising power. Precisely this clearly shows the historic superiority of our socialist social system over the capitalist one.

Consequently, the requirements regarding the quality and efficiency of agitation and propaganda are constantly increasing. What is at stake here is the responsibility of the individual in the socialist society and the concurrence of personal and social interests. Each one must contribute his share at this work place so that the advantages of socialism gain more and more in weight.

Last but not least, new requirements regarding the level of our political-ideological work follow from the people's higher cultural demands. We have to deal with knowledgeable, educated people who are not satisfied with commonplace views and cliches. They expect comprehensive information and convincing arguments so as to adopt a correct political orientation.

Finally, a considerable role is played by the fact that the international class struggle between socialism and imperialism has sharpened. The ideological aggressiveness of imperialism, its anticommunist campaign and diversion are constantly increasing. It is an old, repeatedly abortive, but nevertheless dangerous policy. It is an attempt--from a historically defensive position--to stop what cannot be stopped: the worldwide transition from capitalism to socialism.

As is known, we proceed from the fact that we are building our socialist system under open conditions and constant imperialist attempts at intervention. This can only encourage us to again prove the superiority of our Marxist-Leninist ideology by means of our successful domestic and foreign policy. Our constant task is ideological vigilance, steadfastness and the capability to pit our class standpoint against the attempts at manipulations by the imperialist opinion makers.

Given the unbreakable unity between policy, economy and ideology, our political activity among the masses is primarily aimed at arming the working people with the economic laws of socialism and with the contents of our economic strategy, at giving them an incentive and mobilizing them for higher economic achievements. We can meet requirements only if the working people realize that scientific-technical progress and the great economic and, hence, social achievements immediately following therefrom are of vital importance. We are convinced that in this respect the Urania Society will continue to make an important contribution as it has done since the ninth party congress.

A great source of material and cultural potential consists in giving the experience of the best workers a more effective general application in the socialist competition. Under the leadership of the party organizations and in cooperation with the trade unions, the state leaders, beginning with the minister down to the foreman and brigade member, are highly responsible for the systematic organization of this exchange of opinion and the explanation of all ideological questions connected with the struggle for great achievements, for the application of the principle of socialist efficiency and for the constant strengthening of work morale, discipline and order.

More than ever before it is now necessary to answer each political or social question from a class standpoint and to grasp the essence of phenomena which are conditioned by the system. The answer to the question "whom does this serve?" is the ultimate test in analyzing each phenomenon, in reaching the right decision and adopting the correct action in any situation of the class struggle. This is valid for both the tasks of socialist construction and for the struggle against imperialism and its counterrevolutionary machinations.

Propaganda of history is of great value in deepening people's socialist awareness. This propaganda has been greatly intensified in recent years. The condensed version of "The SED History" and other works such as Ernst Thaelmann's biography have meanwhile become very popular books.

Worthy of mention in this respect are also such television movies as "Karl Marx--His Young Years," the film series on Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and on Scharnhorst, the documentary film "Resurrection From Ruins" and other works. They convey to the citizens of our country, especially to the younger generation, many important experiences and knowledge for mastering the revolutionary tasks of the present. This, last but not least, is so because we present history as it has actually taken place.

In this connection, one task is to promote new traditions that have emerged from our socialist development, traditions which are connected with the building of socialism in the GDR. Here we have to take into consideration the fact that after more than 30 years of the GDR's existence the majority of our people have made direct personal experiences only with socialism but not with capitalism. Especially citizens who have already been born into the new society tend to regard the advantages and values of socialism as such a self-evident and normal right in everyday life that it actually takes the historical viewpoint to ensure their full appreciation.

Because our ideopolitical work is primarily aimed at better and better qualifying the workers class and all working people to wield power, it is part of the practice of party work that communists, wherever they may work, trustfully talk with the masses, explain the policy of the party to them and help them clarify all questions and problems that they have at heart. Political discussion with all citizens is a constant task. More than ever before we must also include in this dialogue people whose attitude toward socialism is not yet sufficiently consolidated. Here it is necessary to consider their varying levels of awareness, education and experience. All that makes high demands on the party's 150,000 agitators.

Comrades, in our time the mass media are playing an extraordinary part. They are ideological fighting instruments in the hands of the worker-peasant power, just as on the other side in the hands of the imperialist bourgeoisie.

In the period since the ninth party congress, the GDR press, radio and television have again proved to be reliable instruments of our socialist system, powerful weapons in the struggle with imperialism. They have made an important contribution toward the working people's political orientation and toward meeting their intellectual-cultural needs. The spread of our mass media has further increased. Thus 1,770 different newspapers and periodicals are published in the GDR today, with a total circulation of 40 million copies. At present 90 percent of all GDR households have televisions, including 17 percent color sets. Virtually every family has one or several radios.

What matters for press, radio and television is primarily to comprehend and implement the active dissemination of our socialist ideology, the domestic and foreign policy information, the intellectual-cultural enrichment and entertainment in the broadest sense of the word, as a uniform task. The endeavors to ensure ideological depth, quick political reaction and effectiveness among the masses must be resourcefully continued.

Above all it is important to further develop the role of press, radio and television as a platform for the exchange of social experiences of the working people. This means that the working people themselves can express their ideas, and that work with the letters of readers, viewers and listeners as well as with people's correspondents must be activated.

As the organ of the SED Central Committee, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND has the task to continue leading the way as an example. The bezirk papers of our party, which appear daily with a total circulation of about 5 million copies, also bear a great responsibility regarding the work with the masses. As far as the over 600 enterprise newspapers are concerned, experience shows that they live up to their social function all the better, the more purposefully they are treated and used by the leadership of the party organizations as their organ.

Following GDR television's quite effective programs on the screen in the past few years, it is now primarily necessary to ensure that the entire program, including a further improvement of the alternative choices between the first and second programs, comes up still better to the high standards of our social development and of the multifarious interests and demands of the millions of viewers.

VI. The FDJ--Helper and Militant Reserve of the Party

Dear comrades, with joy and satisfaction we experience how the young generation has made our party's program its own cause. Our youth fulfills the tasks assigned to it by the ninth party congress with revolutionary verve and civic responsibility. In our society party and youth are at one, because socialism with its aims of peace and prosperity for the people complies with the ideals of the young generation and offers all young people the prospects of a safe future. Socialism needs youth, and the young generation needs socialism. (prolonged, strong applause)

As socialist patriots and proletarian internationalists, the young workers, engineers and scientists, the young cooperative peasants, students and apprentices, secondary school students and members of the armed organs are contributing toward strengthening and protecting our GDR. With its deeds and plans, our youth class-mindedly carries on the revolutionary traditions of the fighters against war and fascism, of the activists of the first hour and the initiators of socialist competition.

At any time the members of the FDJ have proved to be faithful heirs of the Communist Manifesto and reliable supporters of our party's program. The great initiatives of the socialist youth organization are evident throughout the history of our state, from the now already legendary construction of the "Dam of Peace" in Sosa to the building sites of the "FDJ Initiative Berlin," the largest youth project in our republic. More than 13,000 FDJ members from other bezirks are there doing exemplary work for the development of our capital, side by side with their Berlin colleagues.

The outstanding results of the "FDJ Party Congress Initiative" and the "Pioneer Signal 10th Party Congress" confirm youth's trusting solidarity with our party. Never in history has a state on German soil been able to be as proud of its youth as here in the GDR. (stormy applause) Under the leadership of the SED, young generations are growing up distinguishing themselves by relentless learning and studying, by creative, honest and disciplined work, by their readiness and their capacity to defend the fatherland and by their anti-imperialist solidarity and their fraternal affinity with all those struggling for social progress. This is an important achievement of our socialist society, a pledge on the road to communism.

The GDR youth see their interests represented and their ideals embodied in our worker-peasant state. This socialist state has been, is and will remain a state of the youth. Once again the correctness of our party's youth policy has been confirmed. In future we will continue to be loyal to the tested principle of fully trusting the youth and conferring to them high responsibility. Here we pay special attention to the workers youth.

Today there is no field in which the FDJ does not stand its ground. It faces the demands of the 1980's with readiness for achievement, creativity and sense of responsibility and it proves itself on all fronts of the class struggle as a reliable helper and loyal militant reserve of the SED. (prolonged applause) Let us remember the numerous initiatives of the over 38,300 youth brigades and the broad movement of the youth to master science and technology. Let us remember the vigilance of the FDJ members in uniform in protecting our people's achievements. And finally let us remember the cooperation of the FDJ, recognized by the democratic world youth, in the World Federation of Democratic Youth and in the International Union of Students as well as the activity of the FDJ friendship brigades on three continents.

The successful shaping of the developed socialist society requires a consistent communist education of the entire youth at a higher level.

In the Socialist Youth Federation steadfast fighters for building the communist society are growing up, who act in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism and support the implementation of the SED program under all conditions. In this successful work every youth should be led to high readiness for achievement, unshakable class conscientiousness and militant involvement for the cause of communism.

From this our party congress we are calling upon the young who are contributing to shaping the developed socialist society: Master the principles of Marxism-Leninism and use them as a compass for your life! Acquire the communists' meaning of life to do everything for the benefit of the people! Make use of the history of the SED and of the militant experiences of the older generation! Strive for an active position in life, for a socialist class position which can withstand all storms of our time! Make use of all possibilities of our socialist society to enlarge your knowledge, prove your skills and test your talent! Prove yourself in solving the tasks of the SED program as passionate fighters for our communist ideals, full with joy of living! (prolonged, stormy applause)

To prove oneself today as socialist patriot and proletarian internationalist means to stand up for the interests of socialism in any situation, in word and deed, and not give the enemy--wherever he comes up--the slightest chance.

To prove oneself today as socialist patriot and proletarian internationalist means to guard the alliance with the Soviet Union, like the apple of one's eye, in accordance with the Ernst Thaelmann and Wilhelm Pieck legacy, and it means to more firmly forge the friendship of the socialist countries and demonstrate anti-imperialist solidarity with the struggle of the peoples aimed at liberation from exploitation and neocolonialist dependence.

To prove oneself as a young contributor to the communist future means to master the scientific-technological revolution for the benefit of our society. The society in particular has tasks for the youth which challenge their knowledge and skills, their zest for performance and their capacity of performance and which fully develop their creativity and their revolutionary spirit. The youth brigades, the youth projects, the "Fair of the Masters of Tomorrow" movement and the other economic initiatives of the FDJ are decisive fields for the youth to prove themselves and their communist personality.

To stand the demands of our socialist society also means to develop all one's capacities and talents and follow manifold interests. Thus, the further development of the youth's socialist way of life gains more and more importance. It is correct for the FDJ, as the representative of the youth's interests, together with the FDGB, the German Gymnastics and Sports Federation, the Society for Sports and Technology, the state organs and the other social forces to support good conditions for a full, intellectual-cultural, sporting-touristic and defense-sporting life of the youth on the basis of the youth law, be it in enterprises, cooperatives and institutions, universities and schools or urban housing areas and villages. Particular attention should be paid to the FDJ youth clubs and possibilities for youth dances.

We highly welcome the fact that the FDJ is paying great attention to communist education in the Ernst Thaelmann Pioneer Organization. We give the pioneer leaders every support.

Our party is firmly convinced that it can also fully rely on the FDJ in implementing the decisions of our 10th party congress. As revolutionary vanguard of the GDR's young generation the party receives all our support in communist education. Nothing can be closer to the heart of a communist than to inspire young people for our noble goals. We expect from every comrade--starting with the education of his own children--to pass on his practical experience to the youth and contribute to strengthening the revolutionary unity of the generations. (long-lasting applause)

VII. Our Party's Internationalist Tasks in the Revolutionary Movement

Comrades, as an inseparable part of the international communist movement our party is closely linked with the other communist and workers parties and with all revolutionary and anti-imperialist organizations and forces.

Of paramount importance for these links are our identical aims in the struggle for peace and social progress and our solidarity. There is growing allegiance on the part of the equal fellow-fighters to understanding, cooperation, joint action on the basis of mutual respect and independence.

Under complicated conditions the international communist movement has experienced a further upswing and has proved itself the most influential political force of the present even in the class struggles of the 1970's. This is due to the fact that its programs and its goals of action fundamentally meet the interests of the peoples and the vital interests of mankind. Through their heroic, self-denying struggle the communists have contributed toward bringing about positive changes in the international balance of power, which are still felt today, toward strengthening socialism and pushing back imperialism. Standing in the front ranks, communists are the most determined and devoted fighters in the global struggle of the peoples for peace and national and social liberation. (strong applause)

In the 1970's decisive initiatives and actions for solving the vital questions of mankind again emanated from the communist parties. Thus on the European Continent these years were especially characterized by the successful struggle for the anti-imperialist goals of action which were agreed upon at the 1976 Berlin conference.

The peoples were able to convince themselves anew that defending and strengthening world peace and struggling against the aggressive plans of imperialism are the centerpiece of the communists' thoughts and actions. The revolutionary forces must continue to hold the initiative in the international class struggle. This we consider of topical importance. The strength and influence of the international communist movement have also been increased by the growth in the number of many communist parties, by their organizational strengthening, the enlarging of their mass basis and the intensification of theoretical-ideological work. In the 1970's nearly 1.5 million people joined our communist movement in the nonsocialist world alone despite massive anticommunist pressure. New communist parties have arisen or are developing. In Africa and Asia revolutionary national liberation organizations develop into vanguard parties which subscribe to scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism.

It is well known all over the world that our party, state and people demonstrate active solidarity with all parties, movements and peoples struggling for national and social liberation. At the same time we pay great tribute to the solidarity which we have experienced and are experiencing. The collaboration with the other revolutionary forces, above all with the national liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America, provides us with valuable stimuli, experiences and information. In recent years in particular the SED has done a great many things to strengthen and broaden the exchange against imperialism. The solidarity with the struggling peoples of Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Chile, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe has assumed an important place.

We are developing our relations with the fraternal parties on the well-tested and inalianable foundation of proletarian internationalism. The exchange of delegations has been increased. In the period under review our party has been host to a total of 980 delegations, including 800 from communist parties, 150 from friendly revolutionary parties and organizations and 30 from socialist or social democratic parties. On our part we have sent 550 delegations to foreign countries.

But it is not only the figures that are impressive. The exchange of delegations is increasingly characterized by a businesslike atmosphere and orientation toward political tasks which have to be jointly solved. Thus our relations with the fraternal parties of the capitalist industrialized countries have deepened, parties that operate in an important sector of the struggle against imperialism and are confronted with a very experienced and resourceful enemy. In their struggle they can always firmly rely on us.

Our party gives prime importance to the bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the fraternal parties of the socialist community. The strengthening of the fraternal alliance with the CPSU, the most experienced, most tempered and the strongest revolutionary party, is given priority. (prolonged strong applause) This is a prerequisite of our fighting strength and our successes. In the regular multilateral consultations of Central Committee secretaries and in other forms, essential contributions are made to coordinating international policy, discussing the tasks in further improving the political system of socialism, increasing the role of the parties, improving the activity of the mass organizations and developing socialist democracy.

During recent years there have been striking examples of the capacity and readiness of the communist and workers parties to live up to the new conditions of their struggle and to the necessity to broadly mobilize the alliances of action. The evaluations and common goals of action, worked out at the 1976 Berlin conference of the 29 communist parties of Europe, are of great importance for the struggle for peace, security, disarmament and social progress. The meetings of the fraternal parties of Latin America, the Arab countries, the African countries and other regions, the Paris meeting of 22 European fraternal parties in April 1980, the scientific conferences of Sofia in 1978 and Berlin in 1980 and the actions against the neutron bomb as well as against NATO's Brussels missile decision also promote closer collaboration.

The assessment of our ninth party congress, to the effect that the laws of socialist revolution, of the construction of socialism and communism have today become effective under the most varied conditions, has been confirmed in an impressive manner. The variety and complexity of these conditions are increasing. The variety and complexity of problems and tasks which the revolutionary forces have to cope with are also increasing. At the same time common international tasks are arising with increasing urgency for all communist and workers parties and for the three main revolutionary currents, tasks which demand the comprehensive unity of all revolutionary and anti-imperialist forces.

Among them are, above all, the resolute reply to the imperialist trend of confrontation and the struggle for the continuation of international detente in the political and military sector. The prevention of a nuclear world conflagration with which imperialism is threatening mankind most urgently requires common actions. The solution of the energy, raw-material and food problems in the world, the implementation of democratic economic relations, the overcoming of the peoples' neocolonialist exploitation and the repelling of the monopolies--all these things are only possible by means of joint coordinated efforts. The development of the worldwide revolutionary processes in recent years was marked by the expansion of the struggle against imperialism; it was marked by the increased influence of this struggle. New social and political forces were involved in this struggle. An increased striving for common actions has developed from the experience of the anti-imperialist forces. In the struggle for peace, national independence and social progress the workers class, the working masses and the peoples display a combat strength and a will for combat, which have considerably increased.

The international scientific conference devoted to the subject "The common struggle of the workers movement and of the national liberation movement against imperialism and for social progress," held in Berlin in 1980, convincingly proved that it is not only necessary but also possible to consolidate the exchange of opinions and experience on the most urgent tasks in the struggle for the solution of mankind's most vitally important goals. Delegations from 116 parties and organizations from 103 countries attended this conference, which thus became the largest and most widely attended meeting of this kind in the history of the revolutionary movement.

Our party will continue to support all proposals and practical initiatives which are aimed at supporting the joint actions of the communist and workers parties, at developing them in all adequate forms in a manner likely to enable our movement to cope even better with the demands of our time. In accordance with the other fraternal parties the SED supports the holding of international consultations and meetings aimed at discussing topical and urgent questions of our joint struggle.

If we consider the great variety of new problems that are evolving from the advance of the revolutionary forces, it is not surprising that disparate views can arise among these forces, even among communists. In our opinion, the best way is the following: to conduct joint actions for attaining common goals, to review the conclusions drawn from specific experiences in the daily practice of class struggle, to engage in comradely exchange of opinions, and to creatively develop and enrich our Marxist-Leninist theory. As before we also consider it necessary to resolutely rebuff anticommunist, social-reformist and opportunistic attacks.

In recent years our party has further developed the cooperation with socialist and social democratic parties and has gathered positive experience in doing so. Relations and contacts have started and developed with the two Belgian socialist parties, with the British Labor Party, the French Socialist Party, the Social Democratic Party of Finland, the Italian Socialist Party, the Labor Party of the Netherlands, the Socialist Workers Party of Norway, the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland, the Socialist Workers Party of Spain, the Socialist Party of Japan, the Radical Party of Chile, the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru, the Socialist Party of Uruguay and the Socialist Party of Puerto Rico.

The SED will further develop its relations of solidarity and cooperation with the revolutionary parties and movements of Africa, Asia and Latin America. These relations are based on common interests in the struggle for the peoples' national independence, against neocolonialism, and for overcoming economic backwardness, as well as for social progress. In addition to this, we would like and are ready to consolidate contacts with other parties and organizations which cherish peace and detente, including socialist and social democratic parties, for the sake of the peoples' vital interests.

Dear comrades,

Our 10th SED Congress maps out a clear Marxist-Leninist trend for the near future. This is a time of new initiatives, it will be a creative period, a period in which the GDR will further strengthen and prosper. Great and beautiful, but by no means easy are the tasks which we are assigning ourselves. Life under socialism must be further improved. Our social security must be preserved for all and it must further increase. There must be peace in the future as well. Our party, united with the entire people, will devote all its efforts to this goal. (long-lasting and stormy applause, cheers for the SED).

As a party of the workers class and all working people in our country we firmly stand by our tested principle: Whatever we do is not a purpose in itself, everything must serve the well-being of the working man. (once again stormy applause, chanting and cheers). Loyal to this principle, we are proceeding forward together, along the reliable path of our party program; we are strengthening our socialist motherland, we are increasing the strength of the socialist community and of the revolutionary world movement. (prolonged, stormy applause)

Long live the GDR! (long-lasting and stormy applause).

Long live the world-changing theory of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism! (stormy applause)

Long live our SED! (stormy applause lasting several minutes, cheers for the SED. Stormy applause interrupted by chanting: "Long live our Comrade Erich Honecker!--long live!" "Long live the unity of party and people!" Once again cheers for the Politburo, the Central Committee and its secretary general.)